

INTERNATIONAL

Arms for Iran

Soviets link embargo to US withdrawal

MOSCOW, Dec 23 (UPI): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said yesterday the Soviet Union would consider supporting an arms embargo against Iran to help end the Iran-Iraq war.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said Moscow is ready to discuss a UN arms embargo to force Iran to end its war with Iraq, but he linked the sanction to a withdrawal of US warships from the Gulf.

Gorbachev told Jordanian King Hussein during a meeting at the Kremlin that the Soviet Union believes UN Security Council resolution 598 can help end the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

The resolution calls for a ceasefire in the Gulf and threatens a subsequent resolution imposing sanctions if Iran or Iraq refuses to accept the truce. Iraq has said it would accept a ceasefire, but Iran has neither accepted nor rejected it.

Progress
Hussein said he favours an arms embargo against Iran because of the lack of progress toward peace since the resolution was approved July 20 and because of Iran's refusal to comply with the decisions of the Security Council, Tass reported.

"The Soviet Union, while continuing to support the implementation of resolution 598, is not against considering the question (of an arms embargo) at the United Nations Security Council," the official news agency quoted Gorbachev as saying.

Gorbachev, referring to the United States, said he doubted those who "declare the loudest" for the embargo and who "by the way, were caught at secretly supplying arms to Iran" would observe the embargo, Tass reported.

Although the Soviet Union this summer voted with the United States, Britain, China and France in favour of resolution 598, it has not supported a Security Council resolution for an arms embargo to force Iran to end the war.

Means
Petrovsky said the removal of US forces from the Gulf is not a "precondition" for Soviet support of an arms embargo, but he underscored the linkage by proposing simultaneous talks aimed at replacing Western warships with a UN naval force.

But King Hussein appeared to split with his Soviet hosts, saying that US warships should not have to be removed from the Gulf until the fighting ended.

Mitterrand rules out pull back from Gulf

PARIS, Dec 23. (Reuters): President Francois Mitterrand, interviewed on the bridge of the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, today ruled out any quick pull-back of France's naval task force from the Gulf region.

The Socialist President was responding to suggestions that France would reduce its naval presence thanks to a warning of ties with Iran which led to the release of two French hostages in Beirut last month.

"The task force's mission is not over," Mitterrand said in a French television interview broadcast from the Clemenceau at the mouth of the Red Sea. "The time to pull back the fleet has not come," the President added, while refusing to predict how long it would stay.

Protect
France has about 20 ships, or roughly one third of its Navy, in the Gulf region and Indian Ocean to protect French shipping in the hazardous waterway.

French commentators said Mitterrand's remarks would reassure Arab countries, concerned that Paris may be tilting towards Iran in the hope of freeing French hostages held by pro-Iran groups in Lebanon.

France is a major military and financial backer of Iraq, the Gulf region and Indian Ocean to protect French shipping in the hazardous waterway.

Mitterrand said France would not sacrifice its interests — an apparent reference to its pro-Iraqi stand to free the three remaining French hostages in Beirut.

He is the first Western head of state to go to the area to show support for the naval forces in the Gulf.

UN raps Israel's repressive measures

(Continued from Page 1)

Israel's handling of unrest in the occupied territories.

A government statement defended Israel's actions in dealing with Arab rioters and said Israel was doing its utmost to maintain order in the area "while displaying the highest degree of self-restraint."

It warned Washington against adopting positions "that could create unnecessary obstacles to Israel's efforts to restore calm and order."

Rabin said the Army would respond with massive force to put down demonstrations and close or curfew trouble spots. He defended the Army's widely criticised practice of using marksmen with high-powered 22 calibre rifles to single out leaders of violent protests.

"They can shoot to hit leaders of disorder, throwers of firebombs, as much as possible at legs, after firing in the air failed to disperse the riot," Rabin said.

In Washington, the Reagan administration sharply criticised Israel's handling of protests and riots in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly the military's use of live ammunition against civilians.

Patrols

In Bethlehem, the hilltop town where Jesus was born, beefed-up patrols of Israeli soldiers were seen in the streets. In Manger Square, only a few tourist buses were in evidence.

Egypt and Jordan welcomed today the UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel.

Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Boutros Ghali, said it marked the world's denunciation of Israeli practices in the lands it has held since 1967.

Its importance, he said, "lies in citing continued Israeli occupation as the reason for the deterioration of the situation in

the occupied territories."

In Amman, Jordan's Minister in Charge of Occupied Territories, Marwan Doudin, welcomed the resolution but deplored the US abstention.

Syria declared today that the UN resolution showed the Arab cause was lost at the United Nations.

"What is the use of the Security Council decision when it does not direct the responsibility of the crimes at the Zionist criminals and does not say who the aggressor is ...?" asked the ruling Arab Baath party daily Al-Baath.

New Zealand also said it deplored the shooting of civilians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and urged Israel to protect inhabitants of the territories.

Belgium has asked Israel to stop using firearms to control Palestinian unrest in the occupied territories, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

PLO debates

TUNIS, Dec 23. (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose leadership is in crisis session over violence in the Israeli-occupied territories, is considering the creation of a government-in-exile, a senior PLO official said today.

The idea, which has been proposed and rejected in the past, was discussed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his 15-member executive committee at meetings in Tunis, a spokesman for a PLO group represented at the meetings told Reuters.

"One of the ideas being discussed is a government-in-exile which, at the right moment, would declare the establishment of an independent state in the occupied territories," Jamil Helal, spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said.

Filipino ferry tragedy

Scores of bodies wash ashore

MANILA, Dec 23. (Agencies): Scores of bodies — some possibly eaten by sharks — surfaced today from the wreck of the Dona Paz as distraught relatives hurled rocks and abuse at the shipping lines offices, lamenting their "Christmas... of the dead."

Officials of Sulpicio Lines, the ship's owners, filed a formal complaint blaming the crew of the oil tanker Victor for the Sunday night collision and fire that took more than 2,000 lives in the worst peacetime shipping disaster of the 20th century.

Rescue agencies, offering conflicting figures, reported between 131 and 141 bodies had been recovered by nightfall, most of them bloated and burned from the explosion and fire that ripped through the packed coastal ferry when the Victor rammed it amid ships in fog and darkness.

Refused
Coast Guard spokesman Cipriano Luspo refused to confirm reports that some of the bodies had been mangled, apparently by sharks. But Sulpicio Lines vice-president Vicente Gambito said one of the line's vessels was bringing in "18 1/2 bodies" recovered near the scene of the wreck.

Local residents threatened to bury the bodies of 10 dead women, of whom two had been pregnant, that lay decomposing for the second day in Naujan village on Mindoro island, about 10 miles (16 km) from the wreck site.

"What we need here are not conflicting reports of how many were killed," said the mayor in a radio interview. "What we need is for the government to help us get the bodies out of here. The stench is too much."

Luspo said only six bodies had arrived in Manila, where about 50 people marched to the office of President Corazon Aquino, carrying signs with slogans such as "show them to us dead or alive," and "our Christmas is a day of the dead."

Denied
On Mindoro island, near the site of the disaster, a Philippine constabulary sergeant denied reports that a four-year-old boy had been rescued yesterday after floating for two days on a piece of timber.

Government radio operators reported yesterday that the boy was rescued by fishermen in the Mindoro island towns of Pinalaya, about 130 miles (208 kilometres) south of Manila and about 20 miles (32 kilometres) from where the vessels collided on a moonless night.

But Tech. Sgt. Victor Yap said the boy was not from the two stricken vessels but had been injured on an outing with his father.

Yap attributed early reports that the child was from the Dona Paz to "confusion" in a small, isolated community that has become the focal point of the search for survivors.

Compensated
Some 200 people mobbed the Sulpicio Lines offices, shaking fists and throwing a rock through a window when they were told they would be compensated only if their relatives' bodies were found. "We don't need the money, we want the bodies," screamed one woman.



Villagers retrieve bodies of ferry disaster victims from the waters of the central island of Mindoro. (Reuters radiophoto)

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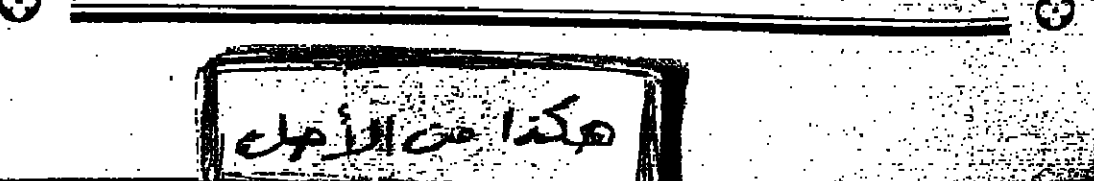
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INTERNATIONAL

Filipino communists accept ceasefire

MANILA, Dec 23, (AP): Communist rebels said today they will not launch attacks on Christmas eve and Christmas Day but pledged to continue their struggle until the masses of the people are finally set free.

The statement by the National Democratic Front, delivered to news organisations today, also thanked foreign and local groups for their support.

"The National Democratic Front extends its warmest Christmas greetings to the people of the Philippines and to all men of good will," the rebels said.

"Today, Dec 24 and on Dec 25, the people's armed forces in all our areas of operation will stop all military offensives against fixed armed forces of the Philippines targets," it added.

The statement made no mention of any truce Jan 1. President Corason Aquino has ordered the military to refrain from offensive operations Thursday, Friday and on New Year's day.

The rebel statement also expressed "our profound gratitude to all our friends, here and abroad, who have gen-

cously shared their material, intellectual and moral resources in support of our people's difficult struggle for national and social emancipation."

The rebels did not identify such groups, but the military claims the front receives financial assistance from leftist groups in Western Europe, Japan and Australia.

The front is an umbrella organisation of 12 Marxist groups, including the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Last month, the front claimed responsibility for the Oct 28 murders of three Americans outside the giant Clark Air Base, 80 kilometres north of Manila.

"Day after day, in the humble dwellings of our countrymen, we discover the spirit of Christmas, which is the spirit of brotherhood, justice and compassion," the statement added.

"Shoulder to shoulder with them, we pledge to fight on until the masses of the people are finally set free and peace and prosperity shall reign over our land."



Khomeini lifts ban on TV films

ATHENS, Dec 23, (UPI): Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini has lifted "religious impediments" on the broadcast by the state television of foreign films and "most songs", Tehran radio reported.

The radio quoted Khomeini as saying in a "fatwa" or religious decree there were no religious impediments on foreign films and "most songs," though "on certain rare occasions" the broadcasters made "some mistakes" and "greater attention was needed."

The Ayatollah was replying to a query by Radio and Television managing director Mohammad Hashemi following criticism by some Iranian clergy of recent television programmes, Tehran residents reached by telephone said.

Hashemi is a brother of Iranian Parliament Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Western diplomats saw the criticism as part of the internal power struggle and intended to embarrass the speaker, often billed as Iran's most powerful cleric after Khomeini.

Khomeini's latest decree indicated the Ayatollah has mellowed since 1979, when he sent minor shockwaves through cultural circles around the globe by declaring music "sinful", the diplomats said.

The Tehran residents said the family of the late Prime Minister Javad Bahonar was among those who criticised certain films and a domestically-made television serial broadcast recently.

Three die in ambush

Sri Lanka party chief killed

COLOMBO, Dec 23, (AP): Sinhalese extremists shot and killed the chairman of President Junius Jayewardene's United National Party and three other people today, authorities said.

The two assassins ambushed the victims' car with a machine gun at an intersection and escaped on a stolen bicycle.

Army Col Vijaya Wimalaratna said.

The killings came three days after Jayewardene vowed to wipe out Sinhalese extremists who have been assassinating his supporters.

United National Party chairman Harshu Abeywardene, his driver, a bodyguard and another aide were killed when at least 21 bullets were fired at their Korean-made car, a police detective said.

The government has blamed the People's Liberation Front, composed of ultra-nationalist Sinhalese, for the deaths of about 150 policemen, government officials and United National Party members in the past five months.

Wimalaratna, military coordinating officer in Colombo, said the two attackers pedaled up to a bicycle repair shop near the intersection and asked to have a new tube put in the bike's front tyre.

While they waited for the repair job, they stood at a nearby intersection with a Chinese-made T56 submachine gun concealed inside eight wooden planks tied together with string, the colonel said.

A police officer quoted witnesses as saying that while the two men were waiting, two other men rode by on a motorcycle and apparently told the ambushers that Abeywardene's car was approaching.

Election
When Abeywardene's car approached the intersection and had to slow down for heavy mid-morning traffic, the ambushers pulled out the machine gun and opened fire.

The car's rear window and side windows were shattered, and there were bullet holes in the front windshield. The inside of the car was covered in blood.

Abeywardene, 32, was elected to his third term as party chairman earlier this month. He was first elected chairman in 1984, advancing from the post of party secretary.

Boat

The People's Liberation Front has vowed to kill anyone who supports the July 29 peace pact Jayewardene signed with India. The accord was designed to end a guerrilla war by Tamil rebels fighting for a separate nation for their ethnic minority.

Many Sinhalese have accused Jayewardene, himself a Sinhalese, of making too many concessions to the Tamils who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

Meanwhile, an Indian helicopter gunship fired on and sank a boat carrying Tamil rebels off Sri Lanka's east coast, an Indian spokesman said.

The spokesman told reporters in New Delhi that five Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels died in Monday's attack north of the port city of Batticaloa.

Members of the Batticaloa Citizens Committee also reported the attack. They said four men died when the boat sank, but that they did not know if the men were Tamil fighters.

The Indian spokesman said yesterday that three other rebels and one Indian soldier were killed in the past 24 hours.

"Can we allow terrorists to kill political supporters and officials of this government? We cannot do that. We will have to kill these terrorists," the President told members of his United National Party at a meeting at Hambantota, a southern coast city in the Sinhalese heartland.

About 25,000 Indian soldiers are in northern and eastern Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil rebels, but they have not been involved in Jayewardene's campaign against Sinhalese extremists.

About 10,000 Sri Lankan police and military personnel have been deployed in the south in an effort to subdue Sinhalese extremists. Hundreds of suspects have been rounded up, officials said last week.

Italian photographer missing in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Dec 23, (AP): An Italian photographer is missing and believed captured by Afghan Army forces, diplomats and guerrillas said today.

The Italian Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad, Daniele Mancini, confirmed that Fausto Balisavo disappeared in eastern Afghanistan on Nov 14.

He said the Italian Embassy was doing its best through diplomatic channels to establish contacts with "all relevant authorities."

Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad said Balisavo, who works for the Albatross photo agency in Italy, "penetrated" into Afghanistan from Pakistan with the guidance of the Jamiat-e-Islami Afghan guerrilla group on Aug 22.

"We simply know that he was probably been captured — though we are not sure — by the Afghan regular Army on the night of Nov 14-15" in the Laghman Valley near the village of Kotli, the sources said.

Laghman is in eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border. Afghan guerrillas based in Peshawar, in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province, routinely take Western journalists into Afghanistan to report on the 8-year-old war.

The pro-Soviet Kabul government allows Western reporters into the country only on government-organised tours.

Najibullah Lasrai, a leader of the Jamiat-e-Islami, said from Peshawar that in October, Balisavo abandoned his group in Panchir and joined another group of two Australian journalists and guerrillas.

When they returned to Pakistan, he stayed behind to complete his reporting. Since then, all contact with him has been lost.

Lasrai said he was almost certain that Balisavo was captured by the Afghan Army.

"We're not sure, but circumstances show that there is a 99 per cent chance that he was captured," he added.

Tax raids on Maharishi net \$30,000

NEW DELHI, Dec 23, (Reuters): Tax raids on four offices of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in and around Delhi netted unaccounted Indian and foreign currency totalling about \$30,000 and jewellery worth the same amount, a Finance Ministry source said today.

The source, quoted by the Press Trust of India, said Tuesday's raids also turned up incriminating documents.

A senior Finance Ministry official said the directorate of foreign exchange seizures had been informed with a view to possible further action.

Although the Maharishi's headquarters are in Switzerland, as an Indian citizen he is governed by the strict Foreign Exchange Act which controls the import and export of wealth.

The Maharishi, 77, best remembered in the West as the guru who instructed the Beatles in the 1960s, was ordered by a US court earlier this year to pay \$138,000 damages to a devotee.

UN urged to deploy troops

Syrians in W. Beirut rotated

BEIRUT, Dec 23, (AP): The Syrian Army rotated its contingent in West Beirut today and a Christian militia commander urged the United Nations to deploy peacekeeping troops throughout strife-torn Lebanon.

It was the first rotation of the 7,500-strong Syrian contingent since it deployed in the Western sector of the Lebanese capital Feb 22 in an attempt to curb the chaotic reign of feuding militias.

Troops were seen boarding trucks and leaving from various West Beirut positions as fresh units rolled in under heavy rains.

Lebanese police sources said

the incoming troops came from Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli and that the departing units headed for north Lebanon.

The Syrians maintain an estimated 25,000 troops in northern and eastern provinces under a 1976 Arab League mandate to halt the civil war, which has claimed more than 130,000 lives since it erupted in 1975.

That mission still is elusive and there are no signs of an early reconciliation between warring Muslims and Christians.

Samir Geagea, commander of the Christians' principal Lebanese Forces militia, has sent a

three-page note to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, proposing the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force "in the whole of Lebanon."

In the note that was published by Beirut newspapers today, Geagea said such a move would end Lebanon's fragmentation and "restore its independence, sovereignty and integrity."

The Lebanese Forces information department said Geagea's note was transmitted to the militia's representative in the United States, Alfred Madi, to convey it to Perez de Cuellar.

Roh wants diplomatic relations with China

TOKYO, Dec 23, (AP): Establishing diplomatic ties with China after nearly four decades of enmity will be a top priority of South Korea's next government, South Korean President-elect Roh Tae-Woo said in an interview published by a Japanese newspaper today.

"Exchanges with the People's Republic of China in the non-political sector have been under way, including economic, sports and cultural exchanges with the (1988 Seoul) Olympics as an impetus, we will make greater effort to elevate the level of the exchanges," The Asahi Shimbun quoted Roh as saying.

Roh, a retired Army general, last week won South Korea's first direct presidential election in 16 years. He is scheduled to succeed outgoing President Chun Doo-Hwan in February.

"For closer relations between

peoples and nations, direct dialogue helps deepen friendship," Roh told the newspaper.

"South Koreans living in China have recently come to our country and there are signs of improved relations between China and Taiwan," he said.

"Those factors will help improve relations between China and South Korea. More dialogue and more exchanges will lead to a spontaneous development of diplomatic ties," Roh said.

China fought along with communist North Korea against South Korea and the US-led United Nations Command during the 1950-53 Korean war.

South Korea does not have diplomatic relations with any communist country, and maintains official ties with the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan.

Families appeal to free US hostages

BEIRUT, Dec 23, (Reuters): Families of American hostages held in Lebanon appealed today for their kidnappers to free the captives as a goodwill gesture over Christmas and the New Year.

"We have all suffered enough and there is nothing to be gained but more pain in continuing to deny these men their freedom," said a letter signed by "families of US hostages in the United States."

The letter to the captors and another for the hostages were sent to an international news agency in West Beirut.

Nine Americans are missing, believed kidnapped, in Lebanon with most being held by pro-Iranian fundamentalists. The captives include journalist Terry Anderson and academic Thomas Sutherland, both heading for their third Christmas in the hands of the Islamic Jihad group.

Addressing the hostages, the families said they approached the holiday season "with heavy hearts because you are not with us. We love you and work and pray for your freedom every day."

They called on God to give their captive loved ones strength and courage.

The families said they shared "mutual pain" and grieved with American Elaine Colett, the wife of British journalist Alec Collet, 66, who was abducted in West Beirut on March 25, 1985.

A group calling itself the Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims said it killed Collet by hanging him in April 1986 to revenge US air strikes on Libya. His body has not been recovered.

US oilman released in Nigeria

LAGOS, Dec 23, (Reuters): US oil executive Herbert Rooks flew out of Nigeria on Tuesday night nearly four months after he was detained by security police, apparently in connection with a \$150 million oil dispute.

A British Caledonian Airline official in Lagos told Reuters that Rooks, 58, boarded the scheduled night flight to London. He was understood to be on his way home to Texas.

Rooks, a director of Panoco (Pan Ocean Oil Corporation), was arrested by Nigeria's State Security Service last August 12 with his two Swiss bodyguards. All three were detained for 100 days before they were released into the custody of their embassies last month, and their passports were withheld.

"Mr Rooks got his passport yesterday," a worker at the US embassy guest quarters told Reuters today.

Bodyguard

A Swiss diplomat in Lagos declined to say whether the bodyguards were also able to return home, and referred callers to the Foreign Ministry in Bern.

Nigerian authorities have made no official statements about Rooks and have pressed no criminal charges.

But he appeared to have become embroiled in a dispute between his Geneva-based company and the Nigerian military government over oil listings in 1984 and 1985.

Nigerian oil officials have said Panoco owed the country about \$150 million, alleging breach of contract.

Rooks, who said he joined Panoco from Gulf Oil in 1985 after the contract had expired, shunned publicity in the weeks preceding his departure.

ARAB TIMES - Kuwait Times

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Prices are higher than at market

Co-operatives come under criticism

COMPLAINTS against co-operative society supermarkets have been growing lately, with claims of financial and administrative violations, different prices for the same commodities at various supermarkets, and higher prices than at other markets.

A consumer, Hassan Al Najadah, told a local newspaper that the co-operative societies should carry out some social work but they only look for profits. The government gives the societies plots of land free of charge and also provides many facilities, but the residents do not get any services in return.

He claimed that directors left societies bankrupt and members got KD 17 or even less as profit. He believed these problems were

caused by unqualified board members. He called on officials to follow up the situation and said the government should take stricter measures.

Clean
Another person, Fadel Issa, said that the expiry date of some commodities had passed but the goods were still being sold, and called on officials to be careful about this. Some supermarkets were clean but others were not and were also badly organised. Cooperatives should employ more qualified youths. He said checking was poor and pointed out that financial matters should not be left to the directors only.

The director of the co-operative department at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry, Mohammed Al Khandari,

said the department checked the societies thoroughly, with inspections made daily. Any violations were subject to penalties.

Regarding prices, he said the department concentrated more on essential commodities and did not allow any price differences. He said cooperatives had supermarkets with many branches, and violations were to be expected.

He said the current cooperative law needed to be reconsidered because it did not provide stability for board members. He said the ministry was preparing to amend some articles of the cooperative law to meet the current market situation. He said the system lacked modern scientific methods in both administration and policy.

The director of the supply and consumer protection department, Abdullah Al Mulla, said the prices were indicated by the department and price checks were carried out by inspectors. He said the department also made sure that products were available to consumers at all times and that the government provided large subsidies for many products.

He said that variation in prices of commodities at co-operatives supermarkets was a good thing because it encouraged cooperatives with higher prices to reduce them in order not to lose customers.

He said the cooperative system was a free one, and the department could not object to matters outside their authority.

Environment fund planned

PUBLIC Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi who is also chairman of the Kuwait Environment Protection Council, yesterday said that the council has decided to set up a fund for enlightenment of the public to the merits of preserving environment in the country.

During a regular meeting of the council on Tuesday night, the decision was also taken to encourage cooperation and coordination between the parties concerned to support scientific research in that field.

The meeting was also briefed about the last month meeting in Riyadh of the GCC Environment Ministers and the Kuwait report to the international maritime environment conference in Italy last October, Dr Awadi said.

New guest house

THE daily Al Seyassah reported that the Dasman Guesthouse, located on Arabian Gulf Street, will be closed as of the beginning of the new year. A new guesthouse for government guests will be opened at the Conference Palace in the Bayan area as of January 1.

14 accidents

THERE were 14 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday. Three accidents occurred in the capital, two in Hawalli and nine in Ahmedi.

Toefl registration

ARAB Students Aid International announced that Monday, Dec 28, is the deadline for Toefl registration for the test which will be held on Feb 12, 1988.

Those interested in registering their names for this test, should contact the ASAI office located at Al Rai, Shaikh Al Farsi Building, Tel. 4735777.

Kennedy holds talks with Oman Air Force chiefs

MUSCAT, Dec 23, (AP): US Senator Edward Kennedy held talks today with Air Force chiefs of the sultanate that shares its coastline with Iran on the Strait of Hormuz, strategic outlet to the troubled Gulf waterway.

US diplomatic sources said the senator was also to hold discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Fahd Al Said and Qais Al Zawawi on the situation in the region.

Kennedy will be flying out later to the US carrier Battle Group in the Arabian Sea.

Assessment

Kennedy chose to spend Christmas this year with the American sailors aboard the US Navy warships that have been dispatched to the region to help safeguard freedom of navigation against Iranian threats in the spillovers of the 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Kuwait-Sudan ties praised

SUDANESE Deputy Premier and Interior Minister, Ahmed Al Hussein yesterday praised the Kuwaiti-Sudanese relations in various fields.

He said in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, that, his visit to Kuwait aimed at enhancing bilateral relations and explaining the situation in Sudan in addition to reviewing security affairs between the two countries' interior ministries.

He asserted, the events in Sudan, whether positive or negative, affect the Red Sea states and Arab Gulf countries' security, emphasizing that Sudan is ready to support any Arab country in face of foreign aggressions.

The Sudanese minister denied any possible re-shuffle in the cabinet at present, indicating that the two Sudanese parties of Al Ummah and the Unionist have identical views toward foreign policy.

He said Ethiopia was behind

the fall of Karmuk city to the Sudanese rebels under John Garang.

He stated that the Garang movement will fail because it "does not represent any ideology."

The Sudanese government troops Tuesday recaptured the southeastern border town of Karmuk which was under occupation of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, for 40 days.

Drug pricing

DR Essa Al Khalifa, the Director of the Drug Registration and Control Centre for Kuwait's Health Ministry, held a meeting on Tuesday with drug importers and agents in Kuwait. The final stages of drug pricing for drugs sold by private pharmacies were discussed, and it was reported that these drugs will be reduced according to new regulations and charters.

Austrian minister to visit Kuwait

VIENNA, Dec 23, (Kuna): Austrian Interior Minister Karl Blecha will pay a three-day official visit to Kuwait next Saturday at the invitation of his Kuwaiti counterpart, Interior Ministry sources told Kuna today.

The Austrian Minister, who is also president of the Society for Austrian-Arab Relations as well as a deputy chairman of the Austrian Socialist Party and one of the party's delegates in parliament's national council here, will be accompanied by the head of the state police department Dr Anton Schulz, the head of the minister's bureau Bernkopf and Dr. Karl Newole, the minister's personal assistant.

The talks in Kuwait will deal with matters of security, of international terrorism as well as on drug trafficking problems.

GCC summit hopes to achieve its goals

THE director of the GCC department in the Foreign Ministry, Khalid Al Jarallah yesterday was quoted as saying that the 8th GCC summit conference will be held amid "serious developments" and expressed hope that the summit would achieve its goals.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Jarallah said that the Iraq-Iran war and developments in the region will top the summit's agenda.

He added that the summit will focus on the Arab situation in the light of the positive outcome of Amman emergency Arab summit held last November.

The security and the military issues, as well as coordination among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council in this regard, will take a great deal of the Gulf leaders' attention during the summit conference due to begin on December 26 in Riyadh, the Foreign Ministry official added.

The summit agenda also includes economic issues, and political developments in the region.

Denying presence of differences in foreign policies of GCC member states, the director said



● The editor-in-chief of the Arab Times Ahmed Al Jarallah (right) yesterday met Jordan's Ambassador to Kuwait, Nabil Al Taihouni.

Palestinian uprising hailed

THE popular uprising of Palestinians under the Israeli occupation was highly praised by a number of ministers, dignitaries and senior officials in Kuwait.

They stressed that the uprising was the right reply to the enemy occupation of Palestine and their aggression against the Palestinians and the Arab world.

State Minister for Housing Affairs, Nasser Al Rodhan, said people should be very proud of this great uprising. He said the "stones revolution" had made many heroic stands that forced the arrogant, Zionist enemy to ask for truce. It was enough to see Palestinian children making the Zionist enemy "live in total disruption and fear."

The Palestinians under occupation were not stopped by the most harsh atrocities and oppressive meth-

ods used by the Israeli Army against them. He stressed that Kuwait would always be with the Palestinian people and would do what it could for their cause.

Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houiti said the Palestinian uprising came to silence all the voices that said the Palestinian cause was closed, adding that the Palestinians had yet again proved to the whole world that their cause will never die.

The present uprising showed that the attachment of Palestinians to their occupied land grew greater as the years went by. It also proved that the Palestinians were a people who would never forget their rights and would sacrifice for it.

Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait, Assem Yacoub Yousuf, said the current uprising in the occupied

territories was a clear expression of the Zionist oppression and suppression of the Palestinians. He described the present generation as the "generation of stones." He hoped the uprising would be a good example for the whole Arab nation to revolt against the present situation and head in the right path to victory.

He said it was the duty of every Arab and Muslim to support the revolution.

Syria's Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Issa Darwish, said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories was the uprising of the whole Arab nation. He said the "stone children" of Palestine were writing history for the Arab nation. He added that the stones used by the people in the occupied lands had left no place for words and speeches.

Solidarity with Palestinians expressed

University teachers stage sit-in

By Mahmood Morsi

KUWAIT University staff yesterday expressed support for the popular uprising staged in the occupied territories by the Palestinian people against Israel's oppressive practices and inhuman acts of aggression inflicted daily on the young and old.

The teaching staff staged a sit-in to express their full solidarity with the "stone children" and their heroic acts against the escalating aggression of Israeli troops.

The sit-in was attended by the director of the PLO Office in Kuwait, Awmi Battash, and a number of Palestinian leaders.

It began with a minute's silence in honour of the martyrs who died under Israeli fire.

Condemned

The vice-rector of the university, Dr Ali Al Tarrah, made a speech in which he denounced the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and expressed the full support of the teaching staff with the Palestinians in the occupied land. He also condemned

the daily massacres committed by the Zionist enemy and called on all Arab regimes to give concrete support to the popular uprising.

The dean of the commerce faculty, Moudhi Al Homoud, said in his speech that the teaching staff intended to dispatch cables to HH the Amir who is chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, to the chairman of the Organisation of African Unity and to the chairmen of international organisations seeking support for the popular rebellion in Palestine.



Teachers observing one minute's silence.

Palestinian women organise sit-in

THE General Union of Palestinian women in Kuwait organised a sit-in on Tuesday at the Union's premises as an expression of their solidarity with the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories. A large number of Palestinian, and Kuwaiti women took part in the sit-in, with speeches given expressing their solidarity and

support for Palestinians fighting in the occupied territories.

A large number of Palestinian students took part in the sit-in held at the PLO office as an expression of solidarity. The students chanted slogans against Zionism and the US and demanded Arab governments to give support to the revolution in Palestine.

The Kuwaiti Journalists Society praised those that were participating in the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in a statement issued by the Society, expressed admiration for the revolution of stones being waged. The statement called on the world to support the Palestinian revolution and Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Aleco supports uprising

TUNIS, Dec 23, (Kuna): Participants in the 9th session of the general conference of Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation expressed support and solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied land.

In a statement issued here last night at conclusion of the session, the general conference appealed to the international community and world intellectuals to back the Palestinians against Zionist terrorism.

Conferees urged Iran to implement the Security Council resolution 598 and highly evaluated Iraqi peaceful attitudes and acceptance of settling the conflict by peaceful means. They also called on the Arabs to support Iraq in defend-

ing its land and sovereignty. Aleco chairman Dr Mohieddin Saber was assigned to stay in office for one more year, and the organisation's budget was endorsed, with a call to members to pay their financial commitments.

Participants appealed to member countries to extend moral and material assistance to help bring into being the long-time hoped-for project of the grand Arab encyclopedia.

They also approved in principle the strategy of developing science and technology in the Arab world.

Gratitude was expressed to Tunisian President and premier as well as the Unesco's director general for his effective participation in the gathering.

Field allowance to be increased

THE field allowance of stores officers and assistant stores officers at the cargo division of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) is to be increased by up to KD 25, according to a statement issued by the KAC Employees Union.

The statement said that the KAC management had responded to the union's demands and the increase will commence from next month.

Hard labour for adultery

A MAN and a woman were each sentenced to two years hard labour, followed by deportation. It was proved at the court that they had been committing adultery for six months.

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Cultural centres planned

THE National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters has decided to set up a number of children cultural centres in various parts of Kuwait, the council's secretary-general Suleiman Al Askari said yesterday.

The decision was agreed during the council's 25th session yesterday morning which was chaired by the council's president State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed.

The council praised Commander of the National Guards Sheikh Salem Al Ali Al Sabah for volunteering to finance one of

the planned children centres, Al Askari told Kuna.

Recommendations approved by the council included a suggestion that the annual book fair be coupled next year with other cultural events to begin one week before the fair and end one week later, he said.

The book fair itself will be extended from ten days to two weeks, it was agreed.

The council's president Al Rashed told the session he will personally follow up implementation of a project for building new premises of the national library.



● An artist of the food and beverage department at the Meridien Hotel, Bondol Donsom, was awarded the employee of the month title for December. Donsom is a specialist in ice carving. He is seen above with the general manager, Matmuller, and the personnel manager, Bayerli.

مركز المعلومات

Cafe-style dining



Table Talk

BY DINAH

THE coffee shops of the hotels of Kuwait vary greatly in standards of comfort, decor, service and cuisine, ranging from the elegance of places like La Braserie at the Meridien Hotel to simpler, more functional cafeteria-style coffee shops like that of the Plaza Hotel. The Gardenia coffee shop of the Kuwait Continental Hotel falls into the latter category. The decorator has used brass, marble and cool shades of blue to give this small restaurant a light and cheerful atmosphere.

The Gardenia is very popular with Kuwaiti families, especially those with small children. Catering to their taste perhaps, Arabic tunes were played incessantly on an electric organ. The term "organ grinder" took on a whole new meaning for me and the Gardenia is certainly not the place to go if you want a quiet conversation or to linger over a relaxing meal. The tiny tables were just about big enough to play a game of cards on, but inadequate for dining.

Menu
The Gardenia offers a choice of a la carte menu or buffet. The menu is reasonably priced with most dishes under KD3 and contains some interesting Middle Eastern dishes as well as curries. As we were short of time, we opted for the buffet. The salad bar offered a small selection with some unusual ideas such as a bean-sprout salad and very tasty seafood salad with chopped vegetables.

For my taste too many of the salads were prepared from preserved ingredients—tinned asparagus, pickled beetroot, frozen sweetcorn and cold baked beans, for example. The bowls provided for the guests to fill are quite small. Delicious fresh broche were served at the table.

The best items in the hot buffet were roast turkey and delicious jumbo-sized prawns in batter. There were, however, too many fried dishes—chicken in batter, cauliflower in batter and potato chips. In addition there was mutton curry with okra, spaghetti, beef, kofta, potatoes, rice and rather heavily spiced biryani.

The dessert buffet included a delicious bread and butter pudding made from khubz, pistachios and fruit. There were some fresh Arabic pastries and moist slices of apple flan. The chocolate coating on the profiteroles was rather synthetic and the chocolate mousse a little heavy. The fruit salad of bananas, apples and tinned cherries was very uninteresting. There were also a couple of gateaux, jelly and custard.

The Gardenia seemed to be short of staff and although our waiter was pleasant and courteous, he did not have time to remove dishes between courses and we had to ask for bread to be brought to the table. The total bill came to KD8.400. When compared to other hotel coffee shops which provide much more lavish buffets (such as the Holiday Inn or Al Hamra at KD 5.500 per person), the Gardenia is a little overpriced for what you get.

RESTAURANT: Gardenia
TYPE: Coffee Shop of the Kuwait Continental Hotel.

MEAL: Three-course buffet dinner
PRICE: KD8.400 (for two) Starting (out of five):
FOOD: ***
SERVICE: **
ATMOSPHERE: **
VALUE FOR MONEY: ***

• All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.15 am
Zuhr	11.48
Asr	2.38 pm
Maghreb	4.56
Isha	6.19

FRIDAY

Fajr	5.16 am
Friday Prayer	11.48
Asr	2.38
Maghreb	4.57
Isha	6.19

CINEMA TODAY

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Born American
Starring: Mike Norris, Steve Durham

Al Salamiya
Ruthless People
Starring: Danny De Vito

Al Hamra
Li 'Adam Kifayah Al Adalah (Arabic)
Starring: Najla Fathi, Yusra, Salah Saadani

Drive-In
Jara Al Wuhoosh (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Noora, Hussein Fahmi, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz

Al Firdous
Tarana (Hindi)
Starring: Dilip Kumar, Madhubala

Fahad Open-Air
Khooni Mahal (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Naag Purnima (Bengali)

Al Jahra
Al Marmourah (Arabic)

Granada
Tex and Lord of the Deep

Sulaibikhat
Ithayum Kalam (Malayalam)

Al Jleeb
Khoon Ka Badla Phansi (Hindi)

Ahmadi Drive-In
La'nat Al Maal (Arabic)
Starring: Hatem Zulfikar, Imaan, Yusuf Shaban

FRIDAY

Al Jahra
Highest Honour

Granada
Ek Duje Ke Liye (Hindi)
Starring: Rati Agnihotri, Kamalhasan

Sulaibikhat
Stalking the Moon

Al Jleeb
Kirayedar (Hindi)

FRIDAY

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Salem Pharmacy
Nr. Sheraton, Fahad Al Salem St.
Al Talal Pharmacy
Opp. Education Ministry, Hilali St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Zena Pharmacy
Bin Khalid St., Nagra

Salamiya and Rumaithiya
Al Raed Pharmacy
Amman St.

Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Khaleej Pharmacy
Mujammah St., F'heel

Jleeb Al Shiyook
Al Wahran Pharmacy
Souk St.

Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

Kuwait
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Souk Wagef, Salah Al Din St.
Al Bakhsham Pharmacy
Tunis St., Hawalli

Hawalli and Nagra
Hawalli Pharmacy
Tunis St., Hawalli

Salamiya and Rumaithiya
Al Quds Pharmacy
Abdul Karim Khalifa
Mazal Bldg., Amman St.

Fahad and Ahmadi
Burgan Pharmacy
Souk Sabah, F'heel

Farwaniya
Al Jazira Pharmacy
Hmoud Sanwan Rashidi
Bldg., Main St.

Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Cooperative Society

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bahrain Modern Art Show
Over 70 modern art paintings by Bahraini artists are on show at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. Open daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm. Open until Dec 28.

FILMS

Indian Film Festival

The festival continues next week with Ramesh Sharma's New Delhi Times (Saturday); Basu Chatterjee's Sara Akash (Sunday); Shekhar Kapur's Masoom (Monday); Guru Dutt's Kagaz Ke Phool (Tuesday) and Adaminte Variyellu (Adam's Rib), a Malayalam movie, on Wednesday. All films will be shown at 7.30 pm in the auditorium of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Children are not admitted. For further details contact the Cine Club, near Indian Embassy, Bneid Al Qar.

SOCIAL

ASK Alumni Dinner
Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will have an alumni dinner on Jan 3. Arabic buffet starts at 8 pm. For details phone — 5314568.

Malayalee Drama

Vishwabharati Theatre, Abbasiya, will present a Malayalee drama and a cultural show, on Friday at 6 pm in the Indian Embassy auditorium.

ACT-Auditions

Auditions for ACT's next production "An Evening of Absurdity" will be held on Monday (Dec 28) on Wednesday (Dec 30) from 7 to 9 pm. For further details and location, call: 5620332; 5725071.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club

Thursday: Youths XV vs Veterans XV at Fintas; kick-off at 3.30 pm. All players must report by 3.15 pm.

Jeeway Pakistan

JEEWAY Pakistan, a two-hour video vassette of Pakistani national songs is being released today on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Prepared and produced by Shamim Zaidi, the cassette contains a number of popular patriotic songs filmed in Pakistan. A chorus by a group of Pakistani children in Kuwait is the highlight of the programme.

The cassette will be released by Najib Video.

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
10.00 The World of Disney: film for children
11.00 Open University
11.30 Al Islam Wal Insaan "Islam and Man," new religious programme, hosted by Dr. Abdul Suboor Al Shahin.
12.00 Ali Al Zaneq: featuring Farooq Al Fishawi, Huda Sultan, Abu Bakr Ezzat and Laila Fawzi.

1.00 News Summary
1.20 World News via Satellite
2.00 Liqa Al Khamis: roundup of local events
4.00 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoons
4.30 News Summary
4.40 The Persuaders: featuring Roger Moore, Tony Curtis.

5.30 Songs and Music
6.00 Alwan: presented by Rasha Magdi
7.00 News Summary
7.05 Show Jumping
7.30 Kahlat Fi Alam Majnoon: Arabic serial. Starring: Issad Yunus, Ala Rami, Hassan Mustafa, Hussein Sharbini.

8.30 With Islam: hosted by Dr. Khalid Al Madhkur
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 From People's Art
10.05 Al Awham: Arabic feature film starring

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

Mustafa Faham, Ilham Shahin, Hatem Zulfikar, Mohsin Sarhan. Directed by Ahmad Al Nahas.
12.00 Late Night Variety Show: hosted by Aminah Al Sharrah.
1.30 News Summary
1.35 World News via Satellite
2.15 Holy Quran/Closedown

FRIDAY

9.00 Holy Quran
9.30 Cartoons
10.00 News Summary
10.05 World News via Satellite
10.20 Children's Magazine
11.00 Ahadih Mauduwa: religious talk by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael.
11.15 Friday Prayer
12.15 Min Wahi Al Ayaat Al Bayanat: religious serial.

1.00 News Summary
1.20 World News via Satellite
1.25 INTERVAL
3.15 Preview of next week's programme on KTV
4.00 Hindi Film: Nawaral, starring Amitabh Bachchan and Rekha.

7.00 News Summary
7.45 A Seminar on Kuwait: Part One. Prepared by Education Ministry.
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 Wrestling
10.45 Liqa'a: Arabic play featuring Shweikar.

Samah Anwar, Hussein Al Sharbini, Raja's Jawadi. Directed by Raed Labib.
12.25 News Summary.
12.30 World News Via Satellite.
1.10 Holy Quran/Closedown.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Voltron: "The Secret of the White Lion." Cartoons.
6.30 The Electric Company
7.00 Fairy Tale Theatre: "Rapunzel."
8.00 News in English
8.40 Max Headroom: "War." Network 23 is used by a gang to blackmail people.

9.30 P.M. Magazine: "Animals." A look at lion taming; training dogs to help the blind; sharks, whales and gorillas.
10.30 Late Night Movie: "Zandy's Bride." (1974) Starring: Liv Ullman, Gene Hackman. Tepid romance of a mail-order bride and her pioneer husband. The film is also known as For Better, For Worse.

12.00 News Summary; Magazine D'Actualite; Closedown

FRIDAY

2.00 Holy Quran
2.10 Cartoons
2.30 Sports Studio: local sporting events; football and other matches.
7.00 Zorro: cartoons
7.30 Side Kicks: "Just for Kicks." Arnie joins a soccer club.

8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away: a local programme, hosted by Basma Al Rayyes.
8.50 Big League Soccer: presented by Brian Moore.

9.30 Weekend: local programme
10.00 What A Country: "Chicken A La Prince." Mr. Brown convinces Mobuto that it is not undignified to work.

10.30 Crime Story: "Fatal Crossroads." After the court postpones a case hearing, the gang moves to Las Vegas to renew its operation.

11.30 News Summary; Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

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LETTERS & EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

It is when the holiday is over that we begin to enjoy it —
A. G. Gardiner, English journalist (1865-1946).

Israel caught off guard by uprising

By Nicolas B Tatro

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP): The intensity and scope of recent Arab uprising caught Israel's government and Army off guard and challenged some widely held Israeli beliefs about Arabs.

Israelis appeared most shaken by the violence spread from the territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war to the Tel Aviv suburb of Jaffa, whose cafe-lined streets had become a symbol of Arab-Jewish coexistence.

"This is the first time the Israeli public has actually seen that there is some kind of mutuality between events in the (occupied) territories and what takes place among Israeli Arabs," military commentator Zeev Schiff wrote in the Haaretz newspaper.

The point was hammered home by Rifaat "Jimmy" Turk, an Israeli Arab soccer star who endorsed Monday's Arab general strike in support of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Listen, I have family in Gaza and the West Bank and I can't detach myself from them," Turk said in a television interview. "I am not going wild or doing illegal things. But I belong to this nation. I can't cut myself off from it and don't want to, either."

Support
His support shocked many Israelis who had come to see the 750,000 Israeli Arabs, who speak Hebrew and vote in Israeli elections, as a contented minority separate from the 1.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Amnon Cohen, a professor of Middle East history at Hebrew University and a former adviser to the military government in the occupied territories, said a variety of contacts between Palestinians and Israeli Arabs, including intermarriage, had brought the two communities together.

"In 1967 there was a total divide between them physical, economical, even emotional. But that has dissipated gradually," he said.

Israeli Jews tend to live and socialise separately from Israeli Arabs, even though they may work together. Many Jews apparently failed to see the

growth of bonds between the two Arab communities.

Political analyst Shmuel Segov said Israeli Arabs would become even more active in campaigning for equal status with Israel's 3.5 million Jews.

"Israel will have to take into consideration today that Israeli Arabs will fight to obtain more power to rectify what seems to them an inequity in comparison with Israeli Jews in development, education, universities, etc.," Segov said.

Some right-wing politicians, fearing further outbreaks of unrest, called for the reimposition of military rule over Arabs in northern Israel. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed the idea.

The Army also was caught by surprise. It has maintained a small force of a few hundred soldiers in the territories; most had neither the training nor means to deal with rioters.

"Most of the soldiers are very young, their experience in such activity is very limited," said Brig. Gen. Ephraim Lapid, the Army spokesman.

Army officials said the military is reconsidering its opposition to forming a riot force and is giving serious thought to equipping units with water cannons and other non-lethal items such as rubber bullets and tear gas.

Falled
The riots hit while both Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were out of the country.

Segov said their absence was one reason the government, deeply divided over Middle East peace-making strategy, failed to come to grips with the situation.

"If the government had taken a strong hand immediately, fewer people would have been killed overall and it would have not lasted this long," Segov said. "The cumulative effect on world opinion would have been lessened."

Uzi Baram, secretary general of the Centrist Labour Party, said Shamir's opposition to a proposed international peace conference was to blame for the recent violence.

"The policy that offers no hope, the policy of not encouraging peace is favourable ground for instigators to get what they want," he told Israel Army Radio.

Even judges are on strike in Brazil

By Stephen Powell

SAO PAULO, (Reuters): Even Brazil's judges have gone on strike as the country's annual rate of inflation approaches 350 per cent under embattled President Jose Sarney and economists warn the worst may be yet to come.

Most analysts say Brazil's tangled political crisis lies at the root of its deepening economic woes.

The 559-member constituent assembly, now in its 11th month, is still a long way from drawing up a new constitution, originally due to be ready before the end of the year, and it is now expected about April.

In the meantime, uncertainty shrouds everything from the system of government which Brazil will adopt to how it will view foreign investors.

This month has seen a resurgence of labour unrest after a period of relative calm. On Friday and Saturday a national strike of 50,000 airline staff grounded most domestic flights in a country which relies heavily on air links.

There have also been strikes this month in the steel industry, government-run universities, telecommunications and the postal services.

Claim
And on Friday, the 60 judges in the important southern state of Rio Grande do Sul began a strike to back a 109 per cent pay claim. Because of the strike, officials said, legal rights such as habeas corpus had been effectively suspended.

As a stand-in president thrust into office in 1985 by the death of the popular Tancredo Neves, Sarney's positions have always been difficult. These days the criticism is relentless.

Sarney, who is widely seen as indecisive and incompetent, said in his weekly radio broadcast last Friday that the economy had spun out of control in 1987.

Biased decision

SIR: I fully support the views of Angelo V. Fernandes expressed in his letter "Unsporting KIFF" (AT Dec 17-18).

One fails to recollect any incident which could lead to such severe action as taken against D'Assisi Boys team, so as to deny them of a win in a game.

I believe the Kuwait India Football Association (KIFF) gave vent to their anger on D'Assisi Boys in order to console the losing Incredible XI team. This is very unprofessional and unsporting.

It's high time all the teams express "no-confidence" on the association and remove cause of favouritism and appoint a new committee of matured and well-informed Indian sportsmen.

One of the KIFF members, Gaspar Almeida, resigned on the above issue so as not to be a part of such a body. When favouritism takes the upper hand, all ethics and morals are lost.

Biased organisation and

unprofessional refereeing ruin the spirit of the game. We sincerely hope that KIFF will reconsider this issue and award the match to D'Assisi Boys.
Romeo D'Mello.
Safat.

Let Appukuttan continue

SIR: We like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities about the termination of our highly qualified and experienced mathematics teacher, P. Appukuttan.

We fail to understand why only he was singled out and his services terminated when it was a joint representation of eight teachers. They demanded a raise in salary at par with another senior teacher.

This is justified as they are the seniormost teachers and have served the institution for a long time. They have also carried out other administrative and cultural activities to the best of their ability. We, the students feel that the Indian School, Salmiya, will not be able to boast of such good results in the public examinations without their services.

Much to everyone's astonishment, inexperienced teachers have been recruited to replace senior teachers. These new recruits have yet to win the confidence of the students. The school management should understand that due to such decisions taken by them, it is the students who suffer most.

We request the school management to let Appukuttan continue teaching us till the end of this academic year.

Students of Class XII,
Indian School, Salmiya

Gifts for the season

SIR: As this is a season of goodwill, a time for giving, I've compiled a list of gifts for some of the men and women we might care to remember at this time: for Maradona: - speech therapy; for Madonna - a new pen; for Hosni Mubarak - a subway token; for Cory Aquino - a bird cage; for President Jayewardene - a tin of tiger balm;

for Ronald Reagan - a piece of Gorbachev's brain; for Charles and Diana - marriage counselling; for George Schultz - a tattoo for the other cheek; And closer to home: for Selma Abbasi - a new blonde wig; for Sulaiman Kalander - elocution lessons; and for Keith Wells - sour grapes (with the compliments of KTV).

Paul Wilson,
Salmiya.

People ill-treated

SIR: The behaviour of the so called "airport security guards" is atrocious, to say the least. The other day, I was at Terminal 1 to see off a family, for an early morning flight. Passengers as well as others were freely let into the lounge. In fact, apart from the one who manned the console of the "scanner" at the entrance, there was not a single policeman to be seen anywhere around.

After about an hour, while passengers were still checking

in, suddenly eight or 10 security men (most of them in their early twenties) burst into the lounge, screaming in Arabic. One caught hold of a man who had come to see off his wife and children and hit him on the neck with his open palm right in front of this family. Another one grabbed hold of a middle-aged man by his coat collar and gave him such a shove that he lost his footing and almost fell, all this, while rebuking him. Seeing this the people dashed towards the exit.

One who witnessed,
Name and address supplied.

Air fare

SIR: Recently the government announced one fare for all airlines. As a result, air fares have increased between KD 21 and KD 65. This is a great burden on the low paid workers who cannot afford such increases.

Instead of stopping discounting, KAC should give a reasonable discount - about 40 per cent - to all public servants. In that case, all government employees will travel on



KAC. All KAC flights will be full, boosting their business. At present, airlines and travel agents give substantial discount fares to all their employees. If KAC gave discounts to public employees, they would ensure a steady passenger load on all their flights.
M. Ameen Zubairi,
Mohammad Saleh Al Jabbar,
Safat.

All letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.



Egypt fights 5,000 years old bureaucracy

By Dalia Baligh

CAIRO, (AP): Egypt is attacking a bureaucracy nourished over 5,000 years with a five-year plan costing \$45 million and featuring a book of rules three inches (7.6 cm) thick.

The task is formidable: to mobilise an estimated 3.5 million government employees, who control almost every facet of Egyptians' red-tape-laden lives, to deal with the public with efficiency and courtesy.

Aside from making life easier for the citizenry, the effort also is designed to streamline procedures that have become major impediments to Egypt's attack on critical financial problems.

Exporters complain that government pledges to relax regulations on exports have come to nothing. Even more serious is a jumble of red tape that can scare away potential investors.

Four years ago, the American entertainment giant Disney World offered to build an amusement park in the desert near Cairo. Egyptian authorities set up a committee, which in turn formed two sub-committees, to study the proposal. The bureaucratic chain ended in August with approval - but the investors were long gone.

Delays
Such delays are major targets of the 100-million-pound plan, due for completion by 1992, to streamline the bureaucracy. Hussein Kazem, who devised it, already has set it in motion.

In the year he has headed the government's Central Authority for Planning and Administration, Kazem has turned it into a model. Its offices are clean and organised. The roughly 2,000 employees work at their desks rather than clustering in groups drinking coffee or tea, the norm in many government offices.

But it will be more difficult to apply his plan to 31 ministries, 26 governorates and hundreds of centres and offices around the country. It's a job many have

undertaken, but none has achieved.

"This is a comprehensive plan which will deal with developing and improving services as well as looking into the problems of employees, increasing their salaries and giving them incentives," Kasem said in an interview.

"We hope to obliterate the phrase 'come back tomorrow'... We have given (the plan) to the other ministries, but it's up to each head of department to see that it's implemented."

Signatures
Whether the need is to obtain an identification card, import a car or export tomatoes, numerous forms are now needed, each requiring a bevy of official signatures, rubber-stamp imprints and stamps reflecting payment of fiscal duties.

The result is a complicated system of red tape administered by people eager to justify jobs. It's compounded by lazy, underpaid employees who throw a "come back tomorrow" at a supplicant or turn a deaf ear to pleas for action until "bakshesh" - a tip - is slipped into the official's drawer.

Often, the key to expediting service is knowing someone in authority.

In most ministries, offices are grossly overstaffed, mainly because tradition obliges the government to hire every college graduate who can't find a job in private business. Egyptian universities graduate about 50,000 students annually.

Kazem said that under his plan, government employees will be given training courses, offices will be refurbished and regulations and directives will be hung on office walls. Time limits will also be set for services.

Bureaucracy began in Egypt 5,000 years ago, with one of history's earliest civilisations. A statue in the Louvre in Paris of an Egyptian scribe, sitting cross-legged and writing on a papyrus between his knees, is among the most famous Pharaonic relics.

That scribe and hundreds of thousands like him faithfully painted on paper or engraved in stone all that went on in their lives, from the accomplishments of the Pharaoh to the taxman's inventory.

Society after society built onto this basis. In recent centuries French, British and Turkish colonisers superimposed their own versions of red tape on the Pharaonic legacy.

There have been numerous attempts to improve the system. The late President Anwar Sadat periodically urged his countrymen, "blow up bureaucracy. Destroy routine." But it was to no avail.

After the monarchy was overthrown in 1952, Sadat's predecessor, Gamal Abdel Nasser unveiled a massive 13-storey "mogamaa" - or complex - which was to have given the Egyptians a respite from bureaucracy.

The forbidding gray building still stands at one of Cairo's busiest squares, housing offices of at least seven ministries offering services ranging from issuing passports and residence permits to handling juvenile delinquents.

Inefficient
Despite Nasser's intentions, however, the mogamaa has become a symbol of an inefficient bureaucracy, a building dreaded by Egyptians and foreigners alike.

About a dozen frustrated Egyptians threw themselves from its top floor before the government ended the suicides by posting guards a few years ago.

Some organisations with dedicated managers have succeeded in improving their domains. One is the state-owned but autonomous Suez Canal Authority, freed from bureaucratic requirements by the charter under which it runs the waterway between the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Another is the Passport Department in the mogamaa.

Such effective bureaucracies, however, remain a minority.

Uncertain prospects for the new year

Hostages face bleak Christmas in Lebanon

By Hala Jaber

BEIRUT, (Reuters): The foreign hostages of Lebanon face the Christmas season of peace and goodwill with heart-rending memories of Christmas past and uncertain prospects for the new year.

American pastor Reverend Benjamin Weir, freed in West Beirut 13 months ago, recalled in his book "Hostage Bound: Hostage Free" the pain of Christmas in captivity far from family and friends.

"I greeted the morning of Christmas with my own quiet carolling, thinking of the only way I had to celebrate. 'I recalled past Christmases with my family and longed to be with them on this day of all days. The pain is worse thinking of how loved relatives must feel,' he wrote.

At least 24 foreigners remain missing, believed kidnapped, in Lebanon. They include nine Americans, five French nationals, three Britons, three Iraqis and one hostage each from West Germany, Ireland, Italy and India.

For 10 of the Westerners, Dec 25 will mark their third Christmas in captivity. The Iraqis have been missing since 1982.

Held
Weir, like six hostages still missing, was held by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group.

He writes in his book of how his kidnappers relented on Christmas day 1985 and allowed him and his fellow American captives to admire a yule log cake before giving them a piece, a plate of fruit and a bottle of cognac.

Weir spent much of his 16 months in captivity bound and blindfolded before his release on Sept 16, 1986.

Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland and Frenchmen Jean Paul Kauffmann, Marcel Carton, Marcel Fontaine and Michel Seurat either remain with the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad or are dead.

"I demand that Michel Seurat be released with the others. I demand that my husband comes home with the others - standing or in a coffin," Marie Seurat, whose husband Islamic Jihad said was "executed" last February, told French Radio Bleu.

The body of the 38-year-old researcher has not been found. "But he has to come back home. It can't go on like this. We have been living in desperation for two years now. The family is on the verge of madness. We cannot live two years in doubt," his wife said.

Harm
The families of an Indian and three other American hostages are spending this Christmas in torment because of a threat last week from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) to harm its prisoners.

"We thought we will be receiving a statement to announce their release... instead we received a threat," Firyal Polhill, wife of 53-year-old Robert Polhill, told Reuters as she wept.

The IJLP also holds Americans Jesse Turner, 39, Alann Steen, 48, and Indian Mithileshwar Singh, 60. Gunmen disguised as police seized them from Beirut University college on Jan 24.

Photographs of Polhill and Turner accompanied a statement warning that all four hostages would be hurt unless Israeli troops stopped a crackdown in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

and Gaza Strip. All the wives could do was issue another appeal for their release.

Bearded and haggard, Polhill looked frightened - he had two sub-machineguns pointed at his head. The other picture showed Turner, who has never seen his five-month-old daughter Joan.

"We want them back," said Turner's wife, Badr, choking back tears. "I think she has to see her father at least to know him. We wish they are okay and are together at Christmas."

Questions
"I am sure he is full of questions as to why he is still a hostage and is constantly dreaming and thinking about how I am carrying on my life with our daughter," she added.

In the run-up to Christmas, Beirut newspapers and magazines raised the hopes of despairing relatives by saying some of the hostages, including the three Frenchmen, will soon be freed.

But there has been no confirmation. There has been no word at all on some of the abductions. "It's hard to describe my feelings. But I don't really see any prospect for his release in the near future," said Jill Morrell, fiancée of Briton John McCarthy, seized on the way to Beirut airport on April 17, 1986.

"A release doesn't just come out of the blue, but through months of dialogue and, after 20 months I think what the British government has been doing is simply not enough," she said.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made her stand on the issue clear last month when she told parliament: "Dealing with terrorists only leads to more kidnappings and more violence."

Prague to maintain cautious reform

By David Stamp

VIENNA, (Reuters): Czechoslovakia seems to maintain its cautious reform-path under new Communist Party chief Milos Jakes, nudged along by exhortations for change from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, diplomats say.

President Gustav Husak announced at a Central Committee meeting in Prague on Thursday that he was stepping down as party general secretary.

During his 18 years in the post he reimposed strict communist orthodoxy following the 1986 Soviet-led invasion, which crushed the "Prague Spring" reform movement, and restored friendly ties with Moscow.

"Jakes is no great reforming zealot," one Prague-based Western diplomat told Reuters. "But the economy is crying out for reform so I think the changes will keep going at the same, cautious pace as before."

Shortly after the leadership change was announced, Gorbachev called on Prague to push ahead with economic restructuring and introduce democratic reforms in public and political life.

But while Gorbachev had recruited many new men to implement his reconstruction of Soviet life and the economy, Czechoslovakia's leadership remained little changed from when it was installed in the late 1960s, the diplomats said.

Changing
"We're not talking about a new generation (in Prague). It's more a changing of the guard by the same faces who have been around since the invasion," one

announced before the Central Committee meeting ends, which could give a better indication of power balances in Prague.

But in Jakes, who at 65 is nine years younger than Husak, the leadership appeared to have found someone who stood between Prague's liberal and conservative camps, they said.

Hesitant
After a hesitant start, Prague has pushed forward with planning its reform programme since the spring. But few changes have yet been implemented and diplomats say the slow pace reflects deep mistrust among some politburo members.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1524 - Vasco da Gama, Portuguese navigator who discovered sea route to India, dies.
- 1618 - Poland signs two-year truce with Sweden and 14-year truce with Turkey.
- 1650 - Edinburgh castle in Scotland surrenders to forces of Oliver Cromwell.
- 1715 - Prussians take Stralsund from Sweden, and Sweden's King Charles XII attacks Norway.
- 1798 - Britain and Russia sign allegiance against France.
- 1800 - Plot is uncovered in Paris to assassinate Napoleon Bonaparte.
- 1814 - United States and Britain sign Treaty of Ghent in Belgium, ending war of 1812.
- 1838 - Sultan of Turkey, with Russian support, limits authority of Milosh in Serbia.
- 1863 - Saxon and Hanover troops enter Holstein.
- 1866 - Schleswig-Holstein is incorporated into Prussia.
- 1899 - Canadian and Australian volunteers land in South Africa.
- 1937 - Japanese troops capture Hangchow in China.
- 1942 - French administrator of North Africa, Admiral Jean Darlan, is assassinated in Algiers.
- 1951 - Libya becomes independent federation under King Idris I.
- 1967 - China conducts its seventh nuclear test, detonating a small device in north-western part of country.
- 1984 - Iraq cancels all flights to and from Lebanon because of what it calls "inadequate security" at Beirut International Airport.
- 1986 - Fighting between black miners from rival tribes at gold mine in South Africa leaves 8 men dead and 37 wounded.



By Keith Wells

Who are you?

ONCE upon a time, everybody knew who they were. But nowadays you need a card. To drive a car, you need a card. To travel you need a passport. To get a flat, electricity or a job, you need a card. You can't even get sick without a health card. The hassle you have to go through to get a death certificate these days means that thousands of people are living beyond their time simply because they can't face the paperwork. I swear there's a guy in Hawaii who's 137 and still can't bring himself to get the photographs and sign everything in triplicate. Besides, he's lost his birth certificate, so he'd never get away with dying anyway.

These new civil identity cards are supposed to be the card to end all cards, but when I tried to buy a new car last week, they still wanted my electricity bill. I told them I was going to run the damn thing on petrol, not volts, but they wouldn't listen.

No-one seems to consider that cards can be faked, forged, or lost. I suppose sooner or later they'll start tattooing your identity on our foreheads, that way they'll know for sure who we are. We won't, of course, since it's pretty well impossible to read something on your forehead even if you look in the mirror. It'll all be backwards so I will start thinking my name is Hiek Silwe, which doesn't sound too good. Still, I suppose

it's better than Laihkim Vehcabrog the Russian leader, and Mrs Thatcher's first name will become Teragram, which sounds curiously apt.

The problem with cards is the photograph. I always look like someone who eats babies for breakfast, an axe murderer after a rough night. The other problem with the photos is that you need so many of them... I estimate that in the past ten years I must have used up about three hundred postage stamp-sized photos of me leering like a malevolent loony.

Question

At one time the quest for human identity provided the greatest of all intellectual challenges. Philosophers faced with enormity of the universe, the mystery of life and the enigma of death would ponder for decades over the profound question: 'Who am I?' Fact is, none of them guessed the answer was going to turn out to be a small square of clear plastic with a bar code, photograph and a visa number. It just goes to show that philosophers invariably lose touch with ordinary life.

Then there is the question of who exactly has the right to demand to see your identity cards? Is it purely a matter for consenting adults, or do we have to produce them for any bossy bus conductor who asks?

Last month I went out into the desert at the weekend, but soon got stopped by some obnoxiously officious nobody who seemed convinced that I was a high-ranking Iranian master spy. 'Who are you?' he asked belligerently, glaring at the top secret bush where we were picnicking.

'I am me,' I replied grandly, 'in person.'

'No, no. What is your name, nationality, where you work your visa number, please?'

'No thank you. I can assure you that this is me, and nobody else,' I glanced into my car wing mirror. 'Yes, indeed, I confirmed. No doubt about it, that's me all right.'

The bossy bedu, he was no more than 23 or 24, tried to pretend he was a policeman, but when I asked to see his identity he refused, and so did I, when he continued to insist on seeing mine. After twenty minutes of mutually unidentified wrangling, we went away, our day out completely spoiled, but it set me thinking.

If this identity business goes much further we'll all be going around with labels on, like baked bean tins. Clothes will go out of fashion, instead we'll wear a wrap-around paper label complete with colour picture of the contents, ourselves, a bar code and list of ingredients, including legally

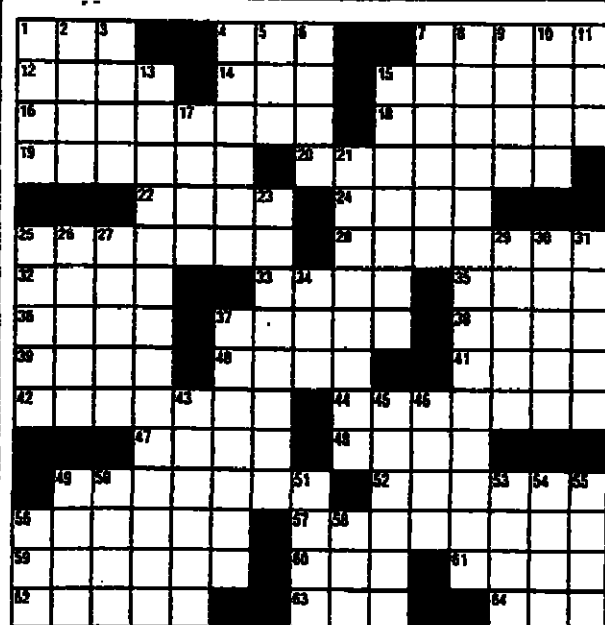
permitted preservatives and expiry dates. Having had the flu for the last ten days, I suspect my own expiry date might be high and the wife will have to hurry if she hopes to sell me before I go off.

I wonder why they (whoever they may be) want to know who we are anyway. Maybe they collect identities like some people collect stamps, and somewhere there is a megalomaniac sticking tiny photos of me and you into a gigantic album, carefully inscribing our names, dates of birth and marital statuses underneath.

Speaking of which, what is your marital status? I mean it's very hard to say, isn't it? Mine fluctuates from day to day. On Friday it could be happy, by Saturday dodgy, and Sunday decidedly dangerous. The last time I had to fill in a form that asked my marital status I'd just forgotten my wife's birthday so I simply wrote 'Untouchable' and left it at that.

Of course, all this nonsense is a product of the wonderful modern world. Can you imagine a Russian bureaucrat saying, 'I am very sorry Mr Bonaparte, Sir, but I cannot let you enter the country without a proper visa.' Or better still, some fussy little man with a residence stamp accusing Genghis Khan and the Golden Horde at the border and blustering, 'Please, Mr Khan, make your team line up properly so we can take their fingerprints.' I think he'd end up as a blood sample.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 152, to Cato
 - Strong — horse
 - TV series about attorneys
 - Amphora
 - Buddy
 - Orinoco feeder
 - Custom
 - Certain ivory
 - These are
 - Sawlike parts
 - Aqueduct
 - Grampus
 - Brit. carbine
 - Blew one's own horn
 - Shaped like a heart
 - Full-length vestments
 - Gloomy
 - Gov. agents
 - Shipshape
 - Kind of sight?
 - Rinehart heroine
 - Paul of song
 - Existence
 - Unusual, with "of"
 - Barry
 - Nut husk, in Aries
 - Ludwig or Jennings
 - Fiscal conditions
 - Stewed or pickled
 - Difficult exertion
 - Put an end
- DOWN**
- to a rumor
 - Cubic meters
 - Road curve
 - Thousand:
 - Prefix
 - Plants
 - Headland
 - Saul's grandfather
 - Adom
 - Tournament
 - of yore
 - Kitchen ender
 - Hudson Bay
 - Indian
 - North Sea feeder
 - Hammett's "The Man"
 - Part of TV
 - Bouquet
 - Draft org.
 - Secessionist gp.
 - Concerning
 - Parable feeder
 - "What — of work is a man?"
 - Shak.
 - Pouch
 - containing fluid
 - Guinness
 - High or low follower
 - All day and all night
 - Vaud's pseudonym
 - Dill of the Bible
 - Neighbor of Ill.
 - Racetrack
 - wagering
 - Singers of liturgical music
 - Pastry tray item
 - Kiss
 - Supplement to a book
 - Group of African languages
 - Liquid portion of fat

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

RUN HIM OUT OF TRUMPS

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A 5
 ♥ Void
 ♦ A K Q J 9 7
 ♣ K Q J 10 9

EAST
 ♠ J 9 7
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ 7 6 5 4 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q 8 6 2
 ♥ 5 4 2
 ♦ 6 5
 ♣ A 8 2

The bidding:
 West North East South
 3 ♣ 4 ♥ 5 ♠ 5 NT
 Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
 We know of many players who would have collapsed when they found out about the bad trump break on today's hand. A far more intelligent approach is that adopted by declarer—look for a way to make the contract regardless.

North-South coped with West's disruptive preempt in fine style. North started with a cue-bid and South showed his desire for slam by bidding five no trump, asking partner to choose the suit—the cue-bid promised only a two-suited hand not a three-suiter. North felt sure his partner had the ace of clubs for his move to slam, so he announced

he was prepared to play in a grand slam by bidding six no trump, passing the decision back to partner (Had he not been interested in a grand slam, he would simply have bid a suit at the six-level.) Since North did not promise spades on this auction, South wisely retreated to his better minor.

Declarer ruffed the opening lead of the king of hearts, and all seemed fine until he led the king of clubs and West showed out. East now had one trump more than dummy, and it would have been easy for South to throw in the towel. A little thought, however, showed that the grand slam could still be made.

Declarer cashed the king and ace of spades, then started running dummy's diamonds. East was helpless. He could ruff whenever he wished, but that would reduce his trump length to that of dummy. Declarer would simply overruff with the ace, draw trumps and dummy would be high.



"Well, I'll say this for the physical side is not dead!"



"It was the listening bank — it heard me breaking in."

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
 BASS ABLE SHE'S
 ABET AGAIN TASS
 REAR BASRA ERSE
 BESIDE THE MARK
 DILE OWN
 SERENE SCREAMED
 ALENE AILED ARA
 FAST STRAD PRAM
 ATT SPEED PASSE
 RESTORED HUSHES
 TIRA COPT
 PLAY THE MARKET
 GLAD BRODE ANNO
 EIRE RARER MATE
 TERN SPAD TRES

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
 You should spare more than a thought for those less fortunate than you. The best thing to do if you are wrong is to admit it. This is no time to be too abstemious, but do not exceed reasonable limits. Be sensible.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
 Do your best to see only the best in others just now. You should use all the goodwill you can summon up. And do give others the benefit of any doubt whatsoever. Be alert.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
 Do make sure that your preconceptions do not prevent you from seeing things as they actually are. Do not suppress your emotions but do not let them hold full sway either. Avoid getting into any kind of argument. Be benevolent.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
 On this day you would do well to reflect on the connection between blessedness and meekness. If you have spent more than you intended on presents think of the pleasure you are giving. Whatever you do, do not put your health at risk. Be cordial.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
 Remember, giving is still more blessed than receiving. You should not do anything you feel or even know is wrong. Avoid giving too much emphasis to your intuitions. Be hopeful.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
 You should make an effort to forgive others their trespasses. And do use your own strengths to help others weaker than you right now. Beware of eating or drinking more than you know you should however delectable. Be resilient.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
 It would be to your credit if you were to show the other cheek just now. You should try to keep calm even though there are plenty of reasons to get excited. Have a little more patience where a personal matter is concerned. Be generous.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
 You should do all you can to spread goodwill. You will be better able to keep in mind your objectives. You should leave your partner in no doubt about your love. Be forgiving.

- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
 Do all you can if not more to spread happiness. If you have accepted an invitation make sure you do not outstay your welcome. Spend a little while thinking about your next move. Be cordial.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
 Do not omit to count your blessings. If you hope for better results than you really deserve you will be sorely disappointed. You should not expect others to behave as though they were any less egocentric than you are. Be moderate.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
 It will be good if you try harder to see good and do good right now. You will be able to show a little more sympathy with the fate of someone with whom you are on good terms. Do not let yourself be daunted by what seems a bigger obstacle than it is.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
 Not only should you not be the one to cast the first stone, do not cast any stones at all. Your common sense will help you to avoid what could have been a difficult situation. You should not believe all you hear. Be a little more considerate.

IT'S enough to make a secular humanist cry. The right wing in the United States has turned on the Gipper, the man who led them out of the Carter political desert into the land of deficits and Star Wars.

The wrath of the conservatives was caused by Reagan saying they do not understand the arms pact and have accepted the idea that war is inevitable.

Archie Sovereign, a right-winger of impeccable credentials, was frothing at the mouth. "He has joined the evil empire."

I said, "Not necessarily, but there is some truth to the idea that your people believe war between the US and the USSR has to be."

"Maybe we do and maybe we don't," Sovereign said. "Peace hasn't worked that well anyway. But that's not the point. How would the flaming liberals like it if Reagan stabbed them in the back?"

"They wouldn't like it, but it's hard to imagine any occasion when he would stab us. Ronald Reagan started his political life as a liberal and it's obvious he wants to end his career as

The Art Buchwald Column

Down with the Gipper

one. If it makes his day to sign a nuclear peace treaty with the Russians I don't see any reason for the neo-conservatives to get all excited about it.

"There is more to this than a lousy arms deal," Sovereign said. "What if I told you the Soviets turned the President around and he now works for them?"

"How could they have done it?" I asked. "He goes to bed so early."

"They put something in Reagan's Ovaltine."

"You ultra-conservatives are really loony. Who would do that?"

"Gorbachev. Since the days of the Czar it has always been the dream of the Russians to have an American President in their pocket. Suppose after putting something in the Ovaltine he persuaded Reagan to sign the paper?"

"Reagan would never sign anything he doesn't believe. He has said many

times that the treaty is good for both sides. By reducing nuclear weapons, and stressing verification, the world will be a safer place to live in."

"It sounds like something the Soviets would instruct Reagan to say. You have to be blind not to see the President gets his orders from the Kremlin."

"Shame on you. Is red-baiting the only thing the right-wing fringe knows how to do? Just because you're mad is no reason to question the loyalty of those who support arms reduction. It may interest you to hear that there are quite a few patriotic Republicans who have urged Reagan to put his signature on the treaty. For heaven's sakes, Archie, you people aren't losing a missile system — you're gaining the Star Wars Initiative."

"Where in the treaty



does it say that the Soviets will cry uncle?"

"If we start down that road the cold war will begin anew and we'll all be in the freezer."

It's better than Gorbachev walking off with everything in the Oval Office. You know, from the beginning we fringe people never did trust Ronald Reagan. He talked tough, but he had disarmament written all over his face."

"OK, so you don't agree that he should sit down with Gorbachev. What are you going to do about it?"

"We're going to start impeachment proceedings."

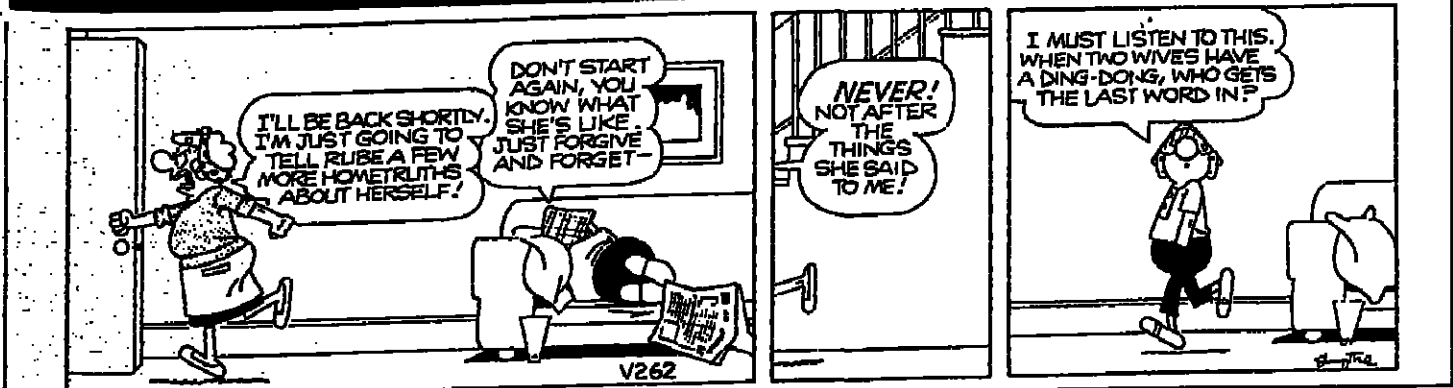
"You can't impeach Reagan."

"Maybe not, but it's a great way to raise new money for old right-wing causes."

1987, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

By Smith

ANDY CAPP



CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Special to the
Arab Times

More publicity, less quality, more tall tales, less hardwork

1987: a year of cinematic mediocrity

NOW that the year 1987 is coming to a close, we recall some of the important films, events and personalities that went to make it a crowded though unrewarding year.

The twelve months were flooded with films, both in the shooting and release stages. But there was no single film that could stand the test of time, or be called a great achievement of Indian Cinema. In fact, there was more publicity than quality, more talk than solid work.

Nearly 145 Hindi films have been released till December and the total produced in all languages is over 800. But of the actual releases, many were films dubbed in Hindi from regional originals, and many were products of earlier years completed now. Moreover, nearly a hundred films were just of the B and C grade types.

At the box-office, too, there were hardly more than 25 fresh films which really made some impact. The competition from video-TV and audience apathy made these films run on for five to six weeks with crowded houses. After that, they were dragged towards a jubilee. The other films had to be content with a combined run (at many theatres) of two to three weeks. The only genuine hit among the lot was *Pratighaat* followed by *Mr India* and *Khudgarz*.

Modest

"*Pratighaat*" made at an amazingly low cost with totally new artists, minted ten times the money both for the producers and the distributors. Its success was an indication of the bottled up anger of the audience against the evils in society, politics and the law and order machinery. It was an angry young woman's fight against the bad elements and therefore it set a new trend



A star cast and a melodramatic plot helped '*Insaniyat Ke Dushman*' at the box office. Above scene has (L to R) Aruna, Amjad, Dimple and Shakti.

amidst hero-oriented films.

Mr India gave another kind of relief by escaping into a fantasy world, where an invisible man and his mischievous beloved fight the evils, and save humanity. *Khudgarz* reminded people of the values of friendship, simplicity and gratitude in a fast-changing world. But the success of these two films came nowhere near *Pratighaat*. The family drama *Sindoor* succeeded on the strength of a suffering woman's sentiment. *Insaniyat Ke Dushman* had a number of stars and a bulky melodrama.

Other films earning modest returns were *Parivaar*, *Sansar*, *Maa Beti*, *Anlad*, *Jalwa* and

Dance Dance. The films filled with action, revenge and violence mostly kept the box-office safe, like *Loha*, *Hukumat*, *Aag Hi Aag*, *Insaaf*, *Marte Dam Tak*, and *Kudrat Ka Kanooon* (which tried to copy *Pratighaat*).

The third type of films to succeed were the sex-oriented ones with soft-porn scenes like *Kachchi Kali*, *Main Aur Tum*, *Kachchi Jawani*, *Wahem*, *Nasheeli Jawani* and to some extent the jungle films like *Sheela*. Some horror films like *Dak Bangla* and *Khooni Mahal* also scored. Those holding promise at the end of the year were "*Pushpak*", the unusual film without dialogue or songs and *Smriti Patil's* last important film *Waris*.

Quality-wise "there" was a steep fall. From the art films aided by "N.F.D.C.", *Mirch Masala* had some hidden commercial elements, so it had a reasonable run. *Debashishu* was pushed out within a week. The other art films had no buyers and were given over to TV. *Mahesh Bhatt's* *Kaash* pretended to be off-beat but ended up as a weepy melodrama. His *Thikana* was a total wash-out. People also felt let down by *Awaam*, *Kalyug Aur Ramayan*, *Dacait*, *Ranhee*, *Yaana* and *Jhanjhar*.

The year saw the rise and fall

of many fortunes and reputations. The saddest fall was of V. Shantaram, the much-honoured veteran, whose *Jhanjhar* crashed at the box-office and was condemned as an extremely poor film. *Manoj Kumar* went down in public esteem with *Kalyug Aur Ramayan*. B R Chopra suffered the second big set-back after *Dehleez* when *Awaam* proved an all-round zero. *Shekhar Kapoor* presented the strange case of a director, who made a hit *Mr India* and was still not signed for a single film. He may now have to produce his own film, *Prakash Mehra* came down badly with "*Muqaddar Ka Faisla*."

Impression

Star ratings kept changing like the stock market. *Amitabh's* misfortunes were more political than cinematic. He had to resign from the Parliament in July, after which his film reputation was jeopardised and for the first time his face was blackened on film posters. *Rajesh Khanna* has almost come to the end of his career. *Jackie Shroff* kept going downhill with flop after flop. *Sunny Deol* suffered from big defeats and is trying for a fresh start all over again. *Dev's* son *Suneil Anand's* future will be decided by the tail-end release

of *Main Tere Liye*.

Vinod Khanna indeed rose from the ashes and made an impressive commercial comeback with *Insaaf* and *Satyamev Jayate*. Though both were poor films, *Vinod* was flooded with offers. *Sri Devi* reached the top with two or three big hits. But her position is not a steady one, for *Himmat Aur Mehnat* has already shown signs of being a flop and has exposed her as a routine performer. *Dimple's* stars are positively on the rise and she was the most sought after heroine during the year. Ironically, after a mega hit like "*Pratighaat*," *Sujata Mehta* has not been signed for a single film as a heroine. *Rekha* also started palling in the background, while *Jaya Prada* kept her place. *Madhuri Dixit* made a proper entry, as heroine.

The younger stars are having a good score, as the films don't totally depend on them. *Mithun*, *Anil Kapoor*, *Raj Babbar*, *Govinda*, *Chunky*, *Sunjay Dutt*, *Naseeruddin*



The biggest loss to the cinema industry was the death of Kishore Kumar.



Amitabh Bachchan; his misfortunes were off the screen but there's a big question mark on his superstar status

Shah etc had a good year and the veterans *Dharmendra*, *Jeetendra* and *Shatrughan Sinha* rode high. Among the girls, *Neelam*, *Mandakini*, *Meenakshi*, *Amrita*, *Farha* kept on getting films, even without a noteworthy hit. Among the character artists, *Anurag Puri* was the most in demand followed by *Pran*, *Ranjeet*, *Danny*, *Gulshan Grover*.

On the whole, it was a bad depressing year. The long cinema strike in North India in the last three months upset most of the film activity. There was turmoil in the Film Institute. The Bombay and Madras industries also had labour trouble. And there were many sad deaths, like those of *Kishore Kumar*, *Surendra*, *Jeevan*, *Meena Shorey* and writer-director *Khwaja Ahmed Abbas*.



Jeetendra, *Shatrughan Sinha* and *Amrita* in '*Khudgarz*'. The film stressed the values of friendship and enjoyed considerable success.



The only genuine hit of the year was '*Pratighaat*'. *Charan Raj* (right) who played the villain receives the silver jubilee trophy.



Films filled with action, revenge and violence were safe at the box-office. One of the big successes of the year was *Dharmendra's Hukumat*.

The video parlours have made a new code word *Sagar Parbat* for "soft-porn" or blue films. They are given only to selected clients. This follows the fiasco of the old code *Bhakti Prasad*, when a cassette of blue movies was sent to an assembly of religious ladies, by mistake.

A new starlet has installed a strange door-bell at her suburban house. When you press it, a tape starts playing lines of film songs like *Aap aaye bahar aaye*, *Bahar phool barsao*, *Aaiye meherban* etc. The starlet's manager sees through the peep-hole and if you are an unwanted guest, the bell switches over to *Mere angane mein tumhara kya kaam hai*.

Raj Kapoor has decided to give up *Henna* for a time and start some other small film. Some artistic excuses are being given for shelving it, though some songs have already been recorded. The real reason lies

Behind the Screen

perhaps in R.K.'s income-tax arrears which are being recovered by the I.T department from the profits of *Ram Teri Ganga Maaili*. So the shrewd *Raj* finds himself short of finance for a big film. And he will not invest his own savings so easily.

Lata Mangeshkar helps many charity causes by doing free stage shows. But she never donates from her own pocket. And she neglects the *Jayprabha Studio* owned by her in Kolhapur, which is meant for Marathi films. The reason is that the studio is not a paying business. But can she not encourage the Marathi film industry, the language to which she belongs? After all, she started her life with Marathi films, singing and acting in them.

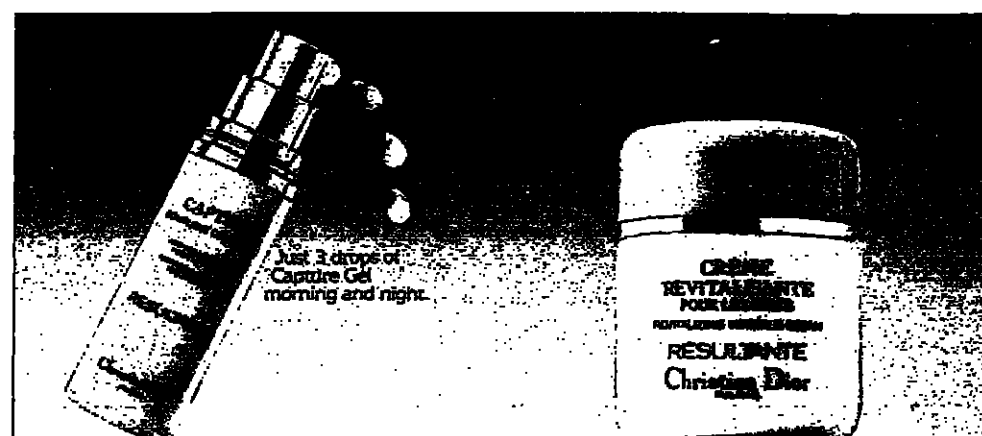
Raj Kumar's real surname is

Pandit. His elder sister writes dialogues under that name. Still, when the egocentric actor was called by that name, he flared up and said: "How can a cheap director like you call me by that name?" P.M. too lost his temper and caught *R. Kumar* by the neck. The actor was scared that the angry hand may next go to pull off his wig. So made a quick exit from the scene.

Shekhar Kapoor's assistant *Satish Kaushik* who played the comic *Calendar* in "*Mr India*" has been signed to direct *Boney Kapoor's* next film. Obviously, the producers have greater faith in the hard work and economy which the assistant showed in "*Mr India*," as compared to the director who went on leisurely spending his time and the money of the producer.



Raj Kumar; egocentric

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Dutch propose law to ban new investment in S. Africa

THE HAGUE, Dec. 23, (AP): The Dutch government has proposed legislation to ban new Dutch investments in South Africa and make Dutch companies report on their personnel policies in that nation, the Foreign Ministry said today.

The proposed law was submitted to parliament yesterday and stems from last year's decision by the 12 nations of the European Economic Community (EEC) to ban new investments in the South African economy, according to a ministry spokesman.

Under the proposal, those Dutch companies that still have South African operations would be required to report to the government on their observance of EEC guidelines aimed against apartheid on the shop floor, the spokesman said.

Policy
She asked not to be identified, in line with ministry policy.

The EEC guidelines call on European companies to recognize South Africa's black trade unions and avoid racial discrimination in pay and working conditions.

All Dutch companies working in South Africa have already been reporting on their observance of the EEC guidelines on voluntary basis since last year, the ministry spokesman said.

The Philips Electronics multinational and the oil giant Shell are among the Dutch-owned companies that have plants in South Africa.

Merger prompts factory closures
STOCKHOLM, Dec. 22, (AP): At least 100 factories will be closed in connection with the merger of Swedish Asea AB and Swiss BBC-Brown Boveri and Co., the designated head of the giant electrical engineering company said in an interview yesterday.

Percy Barnevik, Asea's president, said the merger will be completed by Jan. 1 as planned and strengthen Asea and Brown Boveri, Sweden's national news agency TT reported.

Distribution
"It will lower our costs, enable us to invest more in research and improve our distribution... but I do not want to pretend that the merger will be completed without pain," TT quoted Barnevik as saying.

"We have 700 companies and 2,500 factories. It is clear that out of these (factories) maybe 100 will be closed down. One hundred plus one hundred will be merged. There will be changes in the work situation for employees all over the world," Barnevik said.

The interview did not elaborate on which factories would be shut down or how the restructuring would affect the work force.

Asea Brown Boveri's headquarters will be in Zurich, Switzerland, where Barnevik and 50 Swedish employees are scheduled to move.

Saudis to build pharmaceutical factory

RIYADH, Dec. 23, (Reuters): A Saudi Arabian firm signed a contract today to build one of the largest pharmaceutical plants in the Middle East, designed to meet 40 per cent of Saudi demand.

The Saudi Company for Pharmaceutical Industries signed a 197 million riyal (\$55 million) contract with a West German-Saudi joint venture, Hochtief and Tamimi and Fouad, to build the plant in the Qassim region north of Riyadh, a statement said.

Plant
Company chairman Saleh Al Umair told reporters the plant would produce 90 different types of drugs in capsule, tablet, ointment and liquid form. Construction will take 20 months.

The company is 60 per cent owned by the Saudi public through some 70,000 shareholders, 25 per cent by the Arab Company for Drug Industries, a pan-Arab group, six per cent by founders and nine per cent by the National Industries Corporation.

Future plans include plants to make medical equipment, X-ray film and veterinary medicines.

The pharmaceuticals project will be financed from capital of 300 million riyals (\$80 million), Umair said. Saudi Arabia now produces only liquid medicine.

Statement raises more questions than answers

G-7 declares common interest in stable dollar

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, (AP): The United States and its six major economic allies declared yesterday that any further fall in the US dollar could damage world growth and vowed anew to work together "to foster stability of exchange rates."

The Group of Seven industrial nations, in its first pronouncement since the Oct. 19 stock market plunge, cited a "common interest" in a stable dollar — particularly in light of the recent financial market turmoil.

Unspecified
The seven nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — agreed to take unspecified steps to keep the dollar, down roughly 50 per cent against other key currencies since mid-1985, from sliding further.

At the same time, finance leaders of the seven nations agreed to move if necessary against a possible unexpected rise in the dollar "to an extent that becomes destabilizing."

The joint statement, timed to coincide with final action on a US budget deficit-reduction

measure, was a modified version of an exchange-rate pact reached last February in Paris.

Last night's statement contained no new policy initiative and was generally along lines anticipated by analysts.

However, it did serve notice that the industrial nations were likely to continue a coordinated policy of exchange rate intervention to help stabilise the dollar.

Brake
Central banks like the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan can help brake a currency's fall through direct purchases on foreign exchange markets. However, the dollar fell to record lows against the West German mark and the Japanese yen in recent week despite massive intervention by central banks.

The new statement cited agreement among the seven nations "that either excessive fluctuation of exchange rates, a further decline of the dollar, or a rise in the dollar to an extent that becomes destabilising to the adjustment process, could be counterproductive by damaging growth prospects in the world economy."

The senior US official suggested that finance leaders had decided upon upper target levels for the dollar, but did not wish to disclose them publicly.

In advance of the release of the statement, analysts had expected the seven nations to renew their commitment to a stable dollar. The statement itself did not appear to break any new ground, analysts suggested.

Conceded
The joint communique conceded that the stock market collapse "may have some adverse effect on prospects for growth for the industrialised countries as a group."

But it added: "With sound economic policies and effective coordination on the rate of growth should be substantial."

The document was released in Washington and in other Group of Seven capitals after US President Ronald Reagan signed legislation carrying out a compromise between the administration and Congress leaders to reduce the US budget deficit by

\$76 billion over two years.

The statement hailed that action as an example of the kind of economic coordination needed to correct world imbalances.

Stimulus
It also praised recent interest rate cuts in Europe and economic stimulus packages in West Germany and Japan.

Many economists have blamed the huge US budget and trade imbalances as an underlying cause for the Oct. 19 stock market collapse.

The new statement — issued in lieu of a new meeting of the group — supersedes an exchange-rate pact reached last February in Paris. Under that so-called "Louvain Accord," the industrial nations agreed to support the dollar around its level at the time.

Under the agreement, named after the Paris landmark where it was signed, industrial governments agreed to take steps, including currency intervention, whenever the dollar fell below certain levels.

Although these levels were never disclosed, they were widely

believed to be around 140 yen and 1.8 marks. But since the October stock market plunge, the dollar plunged to levels far below these thresholds — to near 125 yen and 1.6 marks.

Yesterday's statement said the finance leaders "re-emphasised their common interest in more stable exchange rates among their currencies and agreed to continue to cooperate closely in monitoring and implementing policies to strengthen underlying economic fundamentals to foster stability of exchange rates."

Criticism
The joint statement directed criticism at "some newly industrialised economies," usually a reference to Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong, for maintaining such large trade surpluses with the rest of the world.

But it noted that progress had been made in recent months in a reduction of the trade surpluses of West Germany and Japan and in a narrowing of the US trade deficit.

No plan to sell oil less than \$18: Oteiba

ABU DHABI, Dec. 23, (AP): The United Arab Emirates oil minister said today his country will not sell its oil at less than the Opec-decreed price of \$18 a barrel.

"If that's not acceptable, then we have no oil to sell," Mana Saeed Oteiba told the official Emirates News Agency WAM, stressing that his country has been resisting pressures by importing companies to offer price discounts.

He also said that the UAE and other member states of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were prepared to lower their production levels to defend the benchmark price. But he did not elaborate on this score.

The statements were made upon Oteiba's return from a trip that included participation in the bi-annual Opec ministerial session which was held in Vienna earlier this month.

After six days of wrangling over production and pricing policies, the Opec ministers in Vienna on Dec. 14 agreed on a

makeshift arrangement that maintained the official oil price of \$18 a barrel and the system of production controls based on a collective ceiling of 15.06 million barrels.

Iraq, excluded from the agreement because it could not gain a production quota equal to that of Iran, its enemy in the 7-year-old Gulf war, produces around 2.7 million barrels per day.

"The UAE will defend the agreement in cooperation with the other member states in Opec... even if we have to reduce our output below the official quotas," Oteiba said.

There have been reports that the Opec ministers might be forced to convene an emergency session in face of a weak world oil market coupled with overproduction and underpricing by some member states.

The UAE which has a quota of 948,000 barrels a day, was estimated to be producing at the rate of 1.7 million barrels a day in November.



A money broker reads a fax copy on Tuesday's statement by the Group of Seven Industrial nations during trading in Tokyo. (Reuters radiophoto)

Reagan signs deficit cutting bills

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, (Reuters): President Reagan signed two mammoth bills designed to set the government on the road to reducing its budget deficit, vowing it was only the first step and much more needed to be done.

The signing ceremony yesterday capped months of wrangling between the administration and Congress on taxes, spending levels and aid to Nicaraguan rebels that had threatened to leave the government without operating funds.

Biggest
Two bills each contained 1,000 pages and totalled about one foot (30 cm) in height. In signing them — each with four pens — Reagan congratulated Congress for acting to cut the budget deficit but complained about its way of doing business.

One bill appropriates \$600 billion — the biggest amount

ever in one bill — to fund the federal government until next September. The other reduces the budget deficit by about \$76 billion over two years through tax increases and spending cuts.

The administration and Congress agreed on a deficit reduction package following weeks of negotiations, launched after the October 19 stock market crash, partly because of the government's inability to balance its books.

"That agreement was the first step toward placing our country on a reliable and credible budget course," Reagan said. "But there is still more to be done."

Important
Reagan scored two victories in the last stages of congressional wrangling over the spending bill. It included \$8.1 million in aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua and was short of a provision that

would require broadcasters to air both sides of controversial issues.

In a statement in his White House office, Reagan said it was important that US support for the Contras not falter, "particularly when the Sandinistas have confirmed plans to build up to a 600,000-person military force in that country."

But he chided Congress for its failure to enact the usual 13 appropriations bills that provide money for various government functions.

"Wrapping up the entire legislative business of our country into two 1,000-page bills on the eve of Christmas is not the way to do business," he said.

"As we look forward to the new year, our commitment should be to correct the inequities and the deficiencies in the federal budget process."

Plan to boost economic activity

Japan approves budget

TOKYO, Dec. 23, (AP): The cabinet approved today a draft budget for fiscal 1988 that increases government spending by 4.8 per cent and is expected to boost economic activity in Japan.

A Finance Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the budget plan boosts government spending but reduces Japan's reliance of deficit financing.

The Finance Ministry and other government agencies will continue negotiations this week on the amount of their appropriations before final government approval, which is expected on Monday.

Spending
The draft budget calls for government spending of 56.7 trillion yen (\$44.9 billion) in fiscal 1988, which begins next April.

Of the total, it allocates 7.2 trillion yen (\$5.7 billion) for public works spending, including general public works outlays of 6.0 trillion yen (\$4.6 billion), the ministry said. It also includes 1.2 trillion yen (\$9.5 billion) in additional spending to be financed by revenue from sales of the

government's stock in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, a former government monopoly that recently privatised.

The level matches the total for public works spending in the initial and supplementary budgets for fiscal 1987.

Expansion
Most of the stimulus for economic expansion is expected to come from private spending and investment, as well as what the ministry official described as cooperation between the government and private industry.

The draft budget also sets aside 28.8 trillion yen (\$22.7 billion) for the government's fiscal investment and loan programme, up 6.2 per cent over fiscal 1987. The bill helps finance projects to "promote increased domestic demand, enhance social infrastructure... and encourage recycling of surplus funds," the ministry said.

The proposed budget would boost defense spending by 4.4 per cent to 3.67 trillion yen (\$2.9 billion), slightly more than 1 per cent of Japan's Gross National Product, which is forecast to reach 365.2 trillion yen (\$2.89 trillion) in fiscal 1988.

The Finance Ministry based its budget plan on an estimated growth of 3.8 per cent in the GNP, the total value of the nation's goods and services.

The ministry official said he believed the proposed budget would adequately respond to demands from trading partners that Japan continue to shift its export-oriented economy to one that places more emphasis on domestic demand.

Surplus
Japan's current account surplus in 1986 was \$85.97 billion up from \$49.27 billion in 1985, according to Japanese government figures. The semi-governmental Japan external trade organisation predicted this week that Japan's trade surplus would decline from \$105.6 billion in 1987 to \$97.9 billion in 1988, as the nation gradually reduces exports and boosts imports.

Japan's GNP is expected to reach 348.4 trillion yen (\$2.76 trillion) in fiscal 1987, which ends next March 31, up 3.7 per cent from last year. Finance Ministry figures show 5.0 per cent growth in the domestic demand portion, while external demand, mainly exports, shrank by 1.3 per cent.

Turkey and Moscow to hold economic talks

ANKARA, Dec. 23, (Reuters): Turkey and the Soviet Union will hold a series of economic talks in Ankara in January, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

He said technical experts from the two countries would meet between January 6 and 12 to prepare for ministerial-level talks on January 13.

Trade between Turkey, a member of Nato, and the Soviet Union has expanded steadily, especially since they signed an economic agreement in 1983 for Turkey to receive Soviet natural gas.

Turkey was to pay 70 per cent of the cost with services and export goods. But, due to delays on the pipeline, Turkish gas imports this year fell below the agreed amount and a Soviet embassy official said this had caused some problems over the

Turkish payments. He said the two sides were expected to resolve the payments problem during the January talks and agree on a list of export goods from Turkey.

Meanwhile, Istanbul Mayor Bedrettin Dalan signed a \$453-million contract with a French Company today for construction of a network of pipes to distribute Soviet natural gas in Turkey's commercial capital.

Dalan said France's Societe Auxiliaire De Entreprises (SAE) won the project in association with Turkey's Alaraka due to strong French government backing for the project.

The 2,091 km (1,300 mile) network will supply 450,000 Istanbul homes and businesses within three years, using Soviet natural gas from a pipeline that opened in June.

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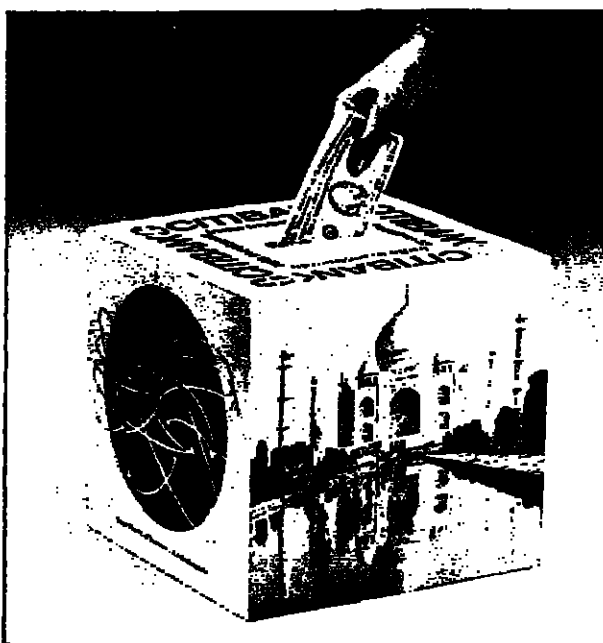
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LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	1/2	1/4	1/8	1/16	1/32	1/64	1/128	1/256	1/512	1/1024	1/2048	1/4096	1/8192	1/16384	1/32768	1/65536	1/131072	1/262144	1/524288	1/1048576	1/2097152	1/4194304	1/8388608	1/16777216	1/33554432	1/67108864	1/134217728	1/268435456	1/536870912	1/1073741824	1/2147483648	1/4294967296	1/8589934592	1/17179869184	1/34359738368	1/68719476736	1/137438953472	1/274877906944	1/549755813888	1/1099511627776	1/2199023255552	1/4398046511104	1/8796093022208	1/17592186044416	1/35184372088832	1/70368744177664	1/140737488355328	1/281474976710656	1/562949953421312	1/1125899906842624	1/2251799813685248	1/4503599627370496	1/9007199254740992	1/18014398509481984	1/36028797018963968	1/72057594037927936	1/144115188075855872	1/288230376151711744	1/576460752303423488	1/1152921504606846976	1/2305843009213693952	1/4611686018427387904	1/9223372036854775808	1/18446744073709551616	1/36893488147419103232	1/73786976294838206464	1/147573952589676412928	1/295147905179352825856	1/590295810358705651712	1/1180591620717411303424	1/2361183241434822606848	1/4722366482869645213696	1/9444732965739290427392	1/18889465931478580854784	1/37778931862957161709568	1/75557863725914323419136	1/151115727511828646838272	1/302231455023657293676544	1/604462910047314587353088	1/1208925820094629174706176	1/2417851640189258349412352	1/483570328037851669882464	1/967140656075703339764928	1/1934281312151406677529952	1/3868562624302813355059904	1/7737125248605626710119808	1/15474250497211253422239168	1/30948500994422506844438336	1/61897001988845013688876672	1/123794003977690027777753344	1/247588007955380055555506688	1/495176015910760111111013376	1/990352031821520222222026752	1/1980704036430400444444053504	1/39614080728608008888881067008	1/79228161457216017777772134016	1/15845632294432035555554268032	1/31691264588864071111108536064	1/63382529177728142222217072128	1/126765058355456284444434144256	1/253530116711112568888868288512	1/507060233422225137777736577024	1/1014120466844452755555731544048	1/2028240933688905511111463088096	1/4056481867377811022222926176192	1/811296373475562204444585235328384	1/162259274751112408888970470656768	1/324518549502224817777940941313536	1/649037099004449635555881882627072	1/1298074198008892711111763764544144	1/2596148396017785422223267529088288	1/51922967920355108444465350581777536	1/10384593784071021688890700117555072	1/20769187568142433777940402351101144	1/41538375136284867555880804702202288	1/83076750272569735111761616140405776	1/166153500545139470222323322808011552	1/33230700109027894044464664460163104	1/66461400218055788088929328920326208	1/132922800360111577777858578406441216	1/265845600720223155555717156801282304	1/5316912014404463111114343136256456384	1/1063382428808926222222868627072912768	1/2126764857617852444445737254145825552	1/425352971535570488889147450829165104	1/850705943071140977778294901653302208	1/170141188614228195555759980330660416	1/340282377228456391111519960661320832	1/6805647544569127822222399213226416384	1/1361129508913825564444479842645228768	1/2722259017827651128888959695290457536	1/5444518035655302257777919390580915072	1/1088903607131060451555583878116182304	1/2177807214262120903111116776352364608	1/4355614428524241806222233544704729216	1/8711228857048483612444467089409458432	1/174224571409697672248889341781891086784	1/348449142819395344497778683573782173568	1/696898285638790688995557367147564347136	1/1393796571277581377991114742951286882272	1/27875931425557627559822234859025737456	1/557518628511153551176444697180514749112	1/111503725702267031135288917436938188224	1/223007451404534062270577834873877636448	1/446014902809068124541155669757552732896	1/892029805618136249082311339515105465792	1/17840596113632724981642626783021091131536	1/3568119222726544963284525356604218227072	1/713623844545308992656905071320845344448	1/1427247688909617953273810142416888896	1/28544953778192359065476202848377793216	1/57089907556384718130915245696755586432	1/114179815112736356261824911393111106864	1/22835963022547271254364818272262233728	1/456719260450945425087276365445244666456	1/913438520901890850174552730890489332912	1/1826877041783781701349105547180878665624	1/3653754083567563402698211098361757329248	1/730750816713512680539642219672351458496	1/1461501633427025361079284439344692916992	1/292300326685405072215856887868987383984	1/58460065337081014443171777573797477776	1/11692013067416202886235355547555555552	1/23384026134832405772470711111111111104	1/46768052269664811544841422222222222208	1/93536104539329623088882844444444444416	1/18707220907865925617777688888888888832	1/37414441815731851235555777777777777664	1/74828883631467702471111155555555555528	1/149657767228335404822222311111111111056	1/299315534456670809644444622222222222112	1/598631068913341619288888124444444444224	1/119726213778267338577777248888888888448	1/239452427556534677155555497777777777896	1/478904855113069354311111995555555555792	1/957809710226138708622223911111111111584	1/1915619420532774172444478222222222221168	1/383123884106554834488896444444444442336	1/766247768213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KD deposit rates fall to new '87 lows

KUWAITI dinar interbank deposit rates remained low yesterday as fresh liquidity came into the market, driving one-month funds to their lowest level this year.

Dealers said there were no signs of the Kuwaiti Central Bank stepping in to mop up excess liquidity and one trader suggested it may even have added funds by placing small amounts of cash on deposit with a few banks.

Fresh funds came from an influx of government salaries onto bank accounts and dealers said the market is set to stay liquid. Some KD54 million in outstanding bills matured yesterday and no new offerings are planned at the moment.

Eased
In the short-dates, tomorrow-next and spot-next maturities were indicated at a nominal two, one per cent, while one-month funds eased to 3-1/2, three per cent from four, 3-1/2 on Tuesday.

Longer-dated maturities held soft around Tuesday levels. Two-months was quoted at 4-1/4, 3-3/4 per cent, three-months at five, 4-1/2, six months at 5-3/4, 1/4 and one-year at six, 5-1/2.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposits traded heavily changed in a thin end of year market yesterday, with a few banks seeking short-dated funds to clear up remaining open positions.

Dealers reported no impact from the overnight Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations' statement on currency stabilisation and the Saudi riyal — which is pegged to the dollar — was quietly steady at 3.7499/7503 after Tuesday's 3.7502/06.

Earlier this week riyal deposits rose on the back of news the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (Sama) was relaxing repurchase agreement rules — interpreted as an indirect signal it wanted to see higher rates. But deposits have now settled back again.

The riyal market has now more or less wound down for the year-end.

Vietnam to get Kuwaiti soft loan

KUWAIT will provide Vietnam with a soft loan of KD4.1 million for a flood water project under an agreement signed in Kuwait yesterday.

Officials at the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Gulf state's aid agency, said the loan would account for 27 per cent of the finance for the project to divert and regulate flood waters.

The loan at 2-1/2 per cent annual interest would be repaid over 17 years after a five-year grace period.

Dollar firm and gold steady

LONDON, Dec 23, (Reuters): Leading industrial countries have made a long-awaited joint call for a steady dollar, but currency and share dealers said today it may have come too late and offered too little to have much impact.

The dollar firmed, gold was steady and shares were mixed. London stocks edged higher while Tokyo, the world's biggest market, slipped back slightly.

Dealers had hoped the Group of Seven industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — would act to buoy financial markets, still jittery after the global stock markets crash in mid-October and after seeing the dollar hit historic lows last week.

Destabilising
"A further decline of the dollar, or a rise in the dollar to an extent that becomes destabilising to the adjustment process, could be counterproductive by damaging growth prospects in the world economy," the G-7 said in a joint statement yesterday.

Rose
In early trading today, the dollar just over 1.5 pence and two-thirds of a yen to touch highs of 1.6445 West German marks and 127.15 yen. It then edged back to trade below 1.64 marks and 127 yen. Gold was

fixed in London this evening at \$482.00 an ounce, \$1 less from yesterday's close.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, and West Germany's Finance and Economics Ministers, Gerhard Stoltenberg and Martin Bangemann, said in separate remarks this morning that the dollar is at present under-valued.

Slipped
Lawson added in a British radio interview: "International cooperation is very much alive and well. Whether or not (the dollar) will fall further or not I don't know. I think that there is a common will, and I think that will include the United States, to try and (ensure) that it doesn't."

"Under free market conditions, the dollar price is ultimately determined by supply and demand. G-7 statements can only have a temporary effect as long as the supply of dollars exceeds demand," said Bob Bauer, senior dealer at Commerzbank AG in Frankfurt. He thinks the dollar could fall in 1.60 marks.

That sort of fear, said stockbrokers in Europe and Japan, kept a lid on share prices.

A weak dollar cuts export sales of European and Asian firms by pricing their goods off the US and giving their American com-

petitors an edge elsewhere.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225-share index slipped 47.17 points to 22,693.85. London edged higher with the benchmark FTSE 100-share index up 13.1 points to a morning high of 1,760.5, before easing slightly.

Frankfurt's 30-share Boersen-Zietung index opened 0.19 points lower at 231.76 and Paris shares fell.

Shares were steady in Amsterdam, where the CBS all-share index rose just 0.3 points to 66.4. Zurich and Sweden. Milan's MIB share index rose 0.7 per cent.

"I don't think this is an accord, it's just a Christmas message. You plea for peace and love at Christmas but the violence is resumed after Boxing Day. It's a pity, but this is just another one of those," said Leo Kranenburg, an economist at Nederlandse Credietbank in Amsterdam.

Pushed
This autumn, a series of bad US trade figures pushed the dollar far below its Louvre accord floors of about 1.75 to 1.80 Deutschmarks and 135 to 140 yen. Share prices crashed.

The dollar tumbled to record lows after the record October figure was reported, on December 10. It eventually fell as low as 1.6140 marks and 125.42 yen on December 18.

Bangemann holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO, Dec 23, (Reuters): West German Economy Minister Martin Bangemann, one of several European politicians mixing business with Christmas holidays in Egypt, held talks with government ministers in Cairo today.

"Even politicians are entitled to the occasional holiday," said one diplomat when asked about a ministerial visitor's plans.

French President Francois Mitterrand was due to arrive on Thursday to spend his third successive Christmas in Egypt, this year cruising on the river Nile between Luxor and Aswan and visiting Pharaonic temples along the way.

Mitterrand spent Christmas last year at St Catherine's in the Sinai peninsula, site of an ancient Greek Orthodox monastery.

Recipients
West German embassy sources said Bangemann had not visited Egypt, one of Bonn's main aid recipients and Third World trading partners, since August 1986.

There were no specific problems to be sorted out but economic ties, the environment and tourism would figure in his talks with Prime Minister Atef Sedki and other ministers, including his host, Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan.

Copper price hits new record

LONDON, Dec 23, (Reuters): Copper fetched a record price yesterday as traders and merchants sought supplies to cover themselves against likely shortages early in 1988.

The cash price on the London Metal Exchange (LME), on which most long-term supply contracts are based, reached £1,700 (\$3,000) a tonne yesterday, nearly double the sterling price at the start of 1987.

Boosted
Speculative and trade demand is boosting the market and this will continue until supply and demand return to balance, Daniel Schultz, senior economist at Drexel, Burnham and Lambert said.

Prices have been boosted by a fall in London and New York official warehouse stocks, which the trade regards as a barometer of free-market copper availability.

UK will try to stop BP buying Britoil

LONDON, Dec 23, (Reuters): The British government said today it would try to stop oil giant British Petroleum Co Plc (BP) taking control of North Sea oil producer Britoil Plc.

A Treasury statement reaffirming its intention to use its special 'golden share' in formerly state-owned Britoil came hours after the panel on takeovers and mergers cleared BP's £2.27 billion (\$4.13 billion) bid for the firm.

"The government confirms it intends to use its share in Britoil to prevent any bidder from gaining control of the Britoil board," the Treasury said.

Control
That 'golden share' gives the government voting control over Britoil even if someone else owns a majority of the company's ordinary shares, a position that usually ensures control.

The takeover panel ruling that BP's offer could go ahead was the first time the independent referee body had looked at an acquisition involving a company with a golden share.

Britoil, sold off by the government between 1982 and 1985, is one of several former state firms in which the government retained one special share allowing it to outvote all other stockholders.

BP, the world's third largest oil firm, has been battling with US oil giant Atlantic Richfield Co (Arco) for Britoil shares. BP has 29.9 per cent of Britoil.

Arco, which raised its stake in Britoil to 19.2 per cent before the panel met yesterday, has said it may bid for Britoil as a 'white knight' to protect the company from BP. Arco also wants to take control of 49.9 per cent of Britoil in return for giving it oil and gas interests outside the United States.

In a related development, the Department of Trade and Industry said it was reviewing the takeover panel's decision.

Oil analysts said it was possible the government would refer

the takeover bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which would render the bid invalid until a ruling was made.

They said the market was now looking to see whether Arco would raise its bid to fight BP for Britoil.

Britoil shares fell from their peak of £4.40 (\$8) on the stock exchange after the announcement but by mid-morning were still 10 pence (16 cents) above yesterday's close. The BP offer is worth £4.50 (\$8.21) a share. BP said in a statement it welcomed the ruling and would seek discussions with Britoil and the government.

BP chairman Sir Peter Walters said in another statement: "The (Treasury statement) does lay anything about stopping us, through our offer, attracting the total support of Britoil shareholders."

"If BP are successful with the offer the Britoil board has a responsibility to run the company constructively," he added.

White House lowers growth prediction

WASHINGTON, Dec 23, (AP): President Ronald Reagan's administration today lowered its prediction for US economic growth for 1988 by more than a full percentage point to reflect the impact of the October stock market plunge.

Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said that the new administration forecast for inflation-adjusted growth for next year is 2.4 per cent, down from the 3.5 per cent forecast issued in August.

"This downward revision, which is in line with many private forecasts, recognises the likely negative impact on growth in 1988 of the recently stock market crash," Sprinkel told a White House briefing.

Growth
However, the administration predicted that economic growth as measured by the Gross National Product, would rise again to 3.5 per cent in 1989.

The administration issues its economic forecasts twice a year.

Today's projection will be used in the preparation of President Reagan's fiscal 1989 budget, expected to be submitted to Congress on Feb 16.

For the first nine months of 1987, economic growth has been rising at a rate of 3.7 per cent, according to the most recent Commerce Department calculations. That's above the administration's August forecast for 3.2 per cent growth for all of 1987.

Overall, Sprinkel declared that the US economy remained sound, despite the current turmoil in financing markets.

Policies
"Continued strong growth of US exports is expected to contribute significantly to economic expansion in 1988, as it has for the past year," Sprinkel said.

"We have set the record for the longest peacetime expansion in US economic history," Sprinkel said, noting the five-year-long recovery.

Asked about a recession, Sprinkel said: "We have no

recession projected out to 1993."

However, he added that doesn't mean to say there won't be another recession between now and then.

"If inappropriate policies are pursued, we might get it," Sprinkel said.

Sprinkel also praised yesterday's agreement among the United States and its six major economic allies vowing to take unspecified steps to prevent the dollar from sinking below its present levels.

He said that the accord should contribute to dollar stability, despite early indications that the declaration was having little impact on the US currency, which has declined sharply in recent months.

In other forecasts, the administration predicted that civilian unemployment would hold at its November level of 5.9 per cent throughout next year, and then decline further to 5.7 per cent in 1989 and slide further to 5.3 by 1993 — a projection nearly identical to the one made in August.

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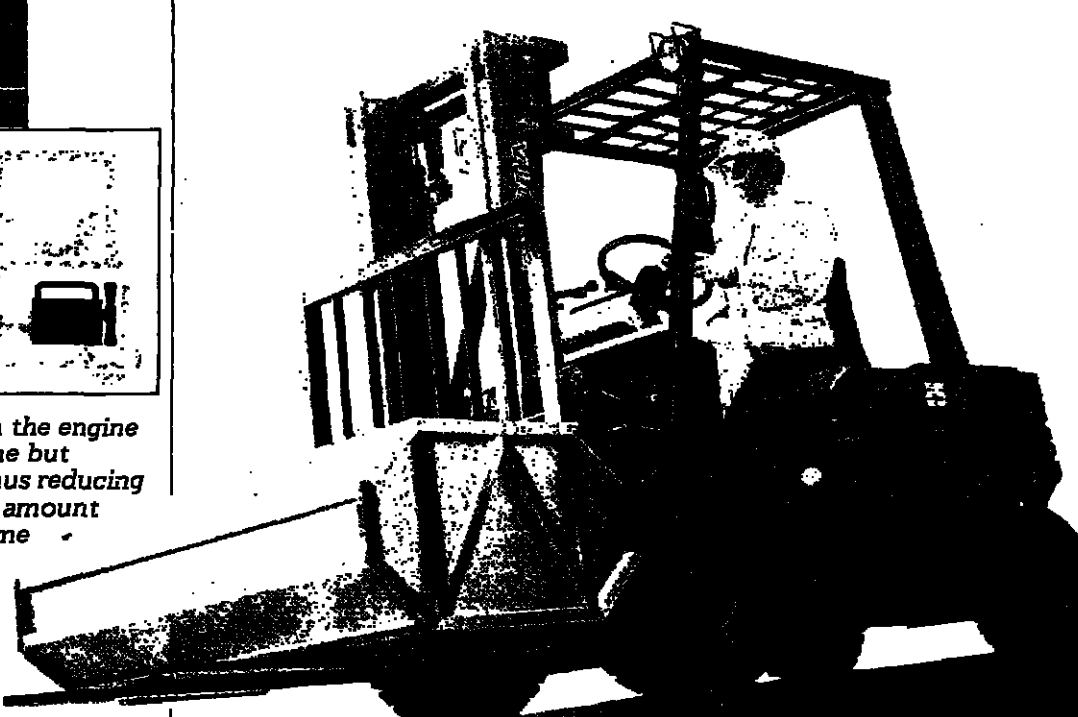
The Toyota Forklift performs smoothly and efficiently even in confined spaces, mainly because of its compact overall dimensions and unobstructed visibility.

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Dear Junior Readers,

We have some special holiday activities and a Christmas story and poem for you today and hope that you enjoy this special Christmas page.

We wish you a very special holiday season.

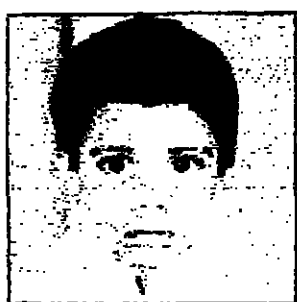
Aunt Barbara

How to write a thank-you note (so Mom won't scream)

If you gave someone a gift, you'd think he was rude if he just took it out of your hands and walked away without thanking you. So write a thank-you note for each gift (nicer than a phone call, because you took time to write it). You can make writing thank-you notes fun if you choose pretty note paper and matching envelopes. Some basic rules:

- Love your gift? Say so.
 - Talk about how much fun you are having with it.
 - Be funny if you want: People like to laugh.
- If you don't like a gift you were given, you can still be polite without lying. Just say "thank you."

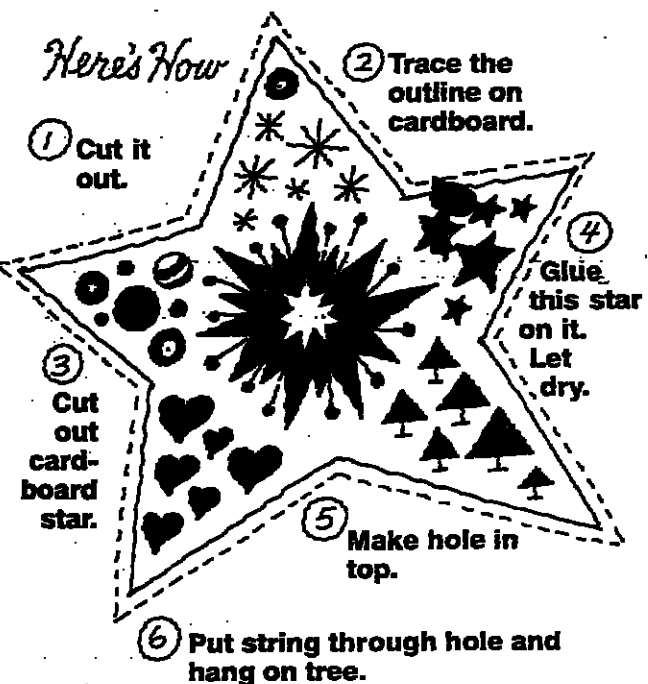
Happy birthday



Tanveer Zia celebrated his third birthday this month and his brother Zubeir, celebrated his fourth. Best wishes, Tanveer and Zubeir, from your family and friends.

A Christmas star

Here's a tree decoration you can make.



ONCE there was a little mouse who didn't have a name. He lived in a great big house, this mouse, the only mouse in the whole, wide house.

He used to play a game. He'd daydream he had playmates who were friendly as could be. The little girls would bring their dolls and dress up and have tea. The boys would all play cowboys or be Eskimos or Spanish, but when he'd try to touch them, like a bubble, they would vanish.

Now, through the year this little mouse had saved one special thing: a piece of cheese, the kind that makes an angel want to sing.

Santa Mouse helps out

On Christmas Eve, he brushed his teeth, and as he washed his paws, he thought, "My goodness, no one gives a gift to Santa Claus!"

He ran to get his pretty cheese. And after he had found it, the paper from some chewing gum he quickly wrapped around it. And then he climbed in bed and dreamed that he was lifted high. He woke to find that he was looking right in Santa's eye!

"I thank you for my gift," said Santa.

"Tell me, what's your

name?"

"I haven't any," said the mouse.

"You haven't? That's a shame!"

"You know, I need a helper as I travel house to house, and I shall give a name to you: I'll call you Santa Mouse."

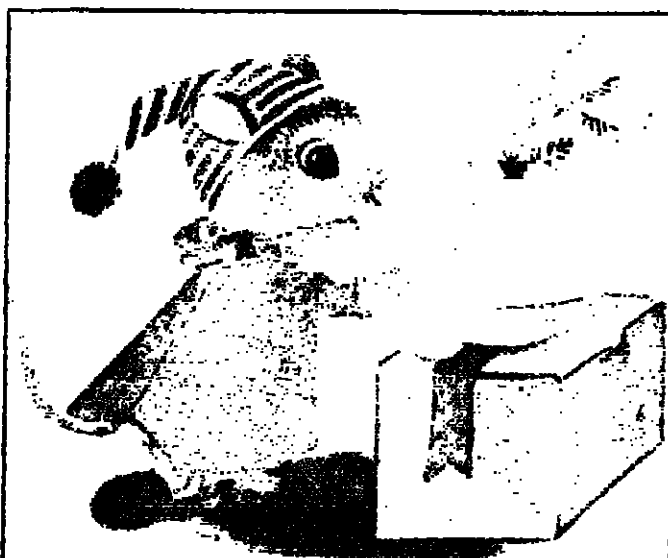
"So here's your beard, and here's your suit, and here's each shiny, tiny boot."

"You mustn't sneeze,

and don't you cough. Just put them on, and we'll be off!"

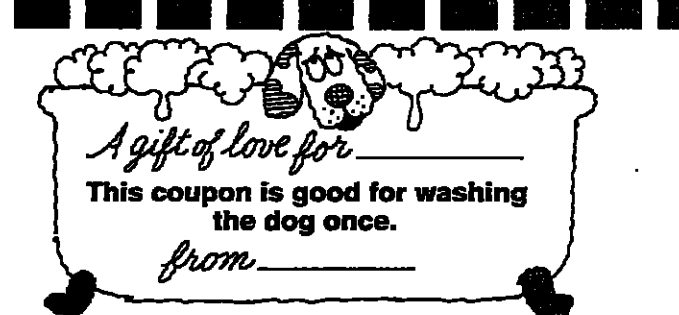
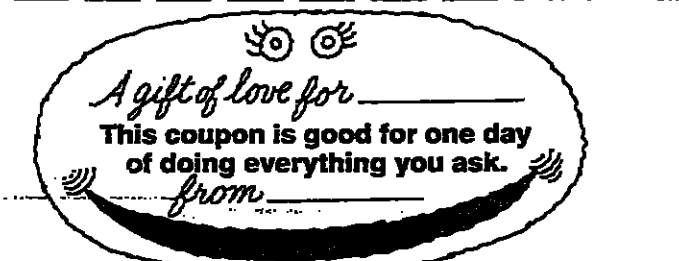
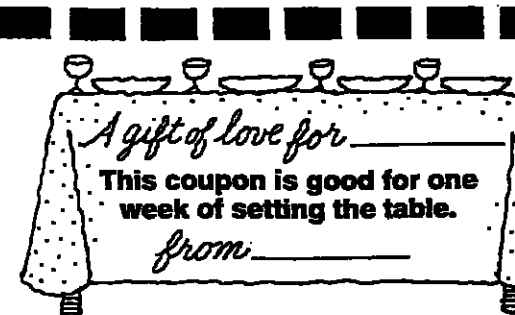
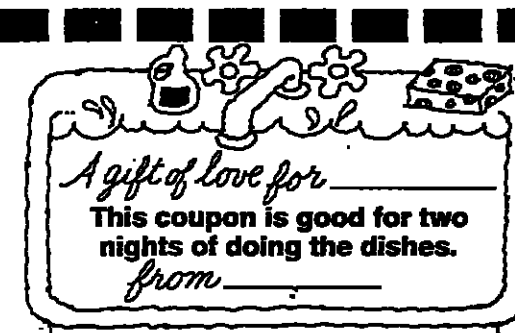
Then over all the rooftops, on a journey with no end, away they went together. Santa with his tiny friend. And so, this Christmas, if you please, beneath the tree that's in your house, why don't you leave a piece of cheese? You know who'll thank you?

Santa Mouse



Parent presents

THE best present you can give is yourself. Cut out these Christmas gift coupons and give them to your parents to use whenever they want.



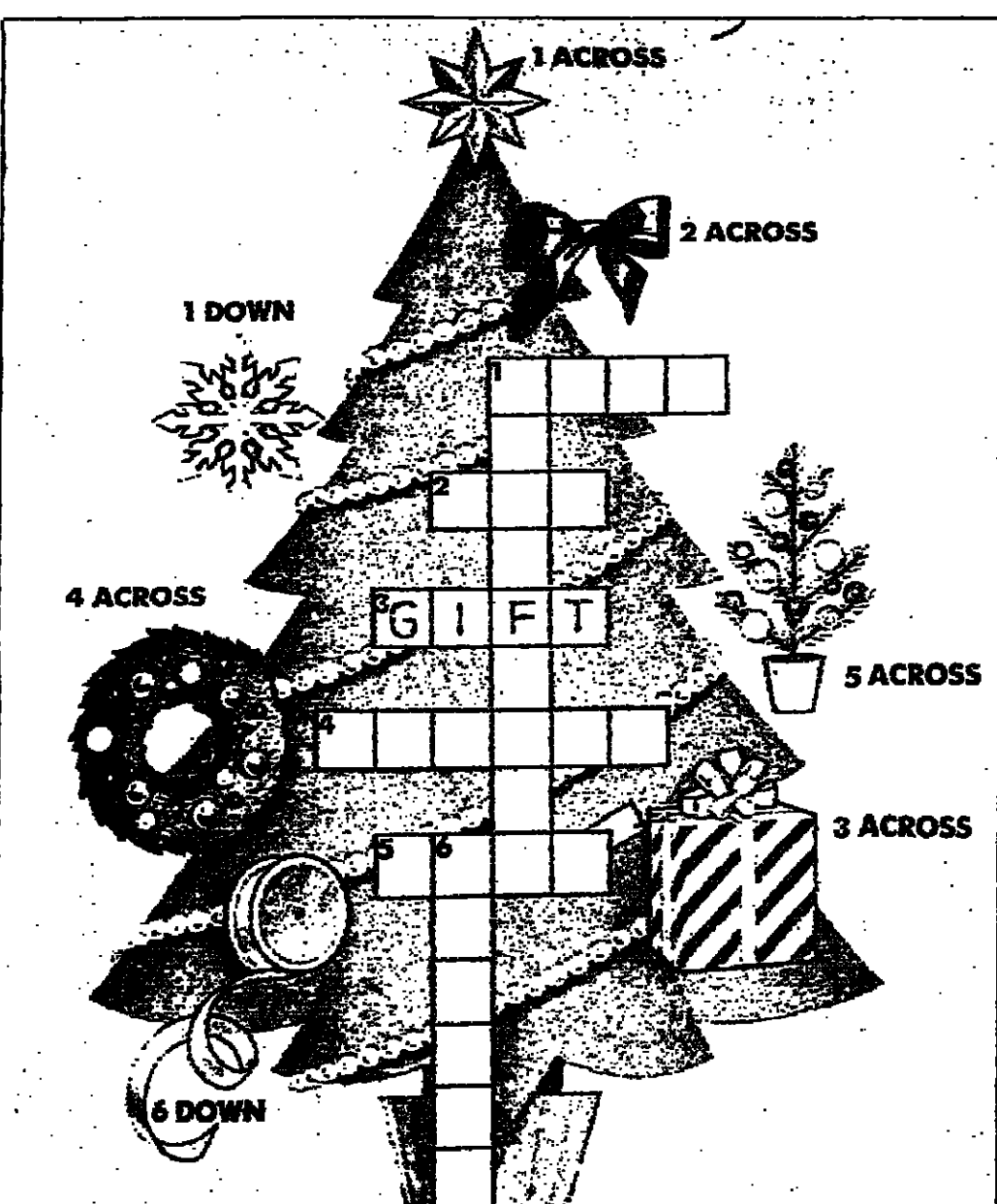
Snowman Scramble

MY niece made a snowman last week. Then she drew six pictures to show me. But the pictures got all mixed up. Help me put them in order.



Holiday crossword

Here above are some things you see during the holiday season. Fill in the crossword with the names of the things shown.



Answers: Down 1: snowflake. Down 6: ribbon. Across 1: star. Across 2: bow. Across 4: wreath. Across 5: tree.

A cold day in December

One day I went walking,
While freezing winds were talking.
All the children were playing,
While Mr. wind is laying
The snow on the ground.

Children riding on their bicycles,
Getting stuck up in the icicles.
Snowman standing in the garden,
Lakes with ice began to harden
Without making sound.

Stockings hung by Santa Claus,
Filled with toys and books and balls.
Snowy footprint on the roof top,
Robins look then off they hop
A crumb was not found.

x Michelle Holt

7 years.

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(AT6-40227-3)

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SALMIYA (near Indian School) flat, 2 bedrooms, a big hall and a saloon for sale. Rent KD130 including water and tele. Tele. 5656123.

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SALMIYA, fully furnished one bedroom, CAC, including tele. for sale. KD 250. Ono. Rent KD 140 per month. Available from 1st January, 88. Tele. Mr. Kamal, 4814093, 9 am - 7 pm & 5631216, after 8.30 pm.

(AT6-40246-3)

SALWA, (near American School) one flat, 3 rooms including a hall and a saloon. CAC. Rent KD300. Tele. Mr. Sheikh, 2631280, 2640263, 4-9 pm.

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NISSAN Patrol, 1984. Long wheel base, white, 62,000 kms, automatic, AC, KD300 for owner, KD 88 per month x 34. Tele. Ahmad, 3982575, home; 2428599, office.

(AT5-40226-3)

MITSUBISHI Colt GLX, 85, 4 door, hatchback, manual, 5-speed, radio, AC, 47,000 kms, well-maintained. KD 850. Tele. 3715354.

(AT6-40232-1)

NISSAN Cherry, 83, automatic, insurance upto Sept. 1988. AC, needs gear repairing. KD 180. Tele. Shahabuddin, 2461135/36 ext. 267 8am - 1pm, 4-7pm.

(AT4-TM-3)

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(AT4-40201-3)

BUICK Le Sabre, 1977, Red, fully automatic, AC, radio, cassette, in good condition. Tele. 5656739, after 1.30 pm.

(AT6-40237-1)

MITSUBISHI Colt, 85 model, manual, AC, 92,000 kms, green, KD1150. Tele. 3948702, after 6 pm.

(AT6-40231-1)

Furniture
FOR sale, 7 seater sofa set, wood central table with marble top. Tele. 2419270.

(AT4-TM-3)

Miscellaneous
FIAT Car 131, 1980, good condition, automatic KD300. Indesit cooker KD30. Nikon Nikomat camera body KD35. Evamaine underwater bag for 35 mm camera KD35. Tele. 4882925, after 1.30 pm.

(AT4-40184-3)

SALMIYA, Bahar Video Street, one bedroom flat for sale. Rent KD 140. Furniture, fridge, 2 A/Cs, electric cooking range, washing machine, curtains and carpets. KD 450. Tele. 5652437.

(AT4-40212-3)

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(AT5-40203-3)

ONE bedroom, TV, refrigerator, oven, chairs, office desk and washing machine for sale. Tele. Avo, 3900388, 9 am - 5 pm.

(AT5-40233-3)

HARLEY DAVIDSON motorcycle, model 1981, Wide Glide Flame. In good condition. Tele. Tarek, 2443186, office, 2435892 after 9pm.

(AT4-40213-3)

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(AT5-40204-3)

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(AT6-40221-1)

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Al Muthanna Complex

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(AT6-40215-3)

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(AT6-40217-3)

MAID required Filipino or Sri Lankan, for a family, to live in. Must speak English. Tele. 484843 ext 4258.

(AT6-40240-3)

MAID required for a small Western family, full-time. Must have a transferable visa. Tele. 2551925, 5-7pm.

(AT4-SH-TM-3)

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پاکستان کی سیاسی صورت حال پر اشرف شاہ کا تجزیہ

[illegible][illegible]

مطابق کاروبار دنیا کو حاصل کرنے کے خواہشمند کے طور پر
 خلافت کا عہدہ خاندان سے داخل ہوا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق : مشرقی
 ایشیا کی شہزادہ نے کہہ دیا کہ میں بہت پیار کیلئے اپنے والد
 کے لئے شہزادہ کے طور پر تیار ہوں۔ یہ خاندان سے داخل ہوا۔
 خلافت کا عہدہ خاندان سے داخل ہوا۔

بقیہ : میکس والوں کے چھاپے

ہوئے ہیں کہ عہدہ دولت کی ورہ آور اور اس کی کھول کی
 چھاپے کے عہدہ مالدار کی طرف سے خفیہ ذرائع "گرو"
 کے طور پر مشہور ہیں اس کا ایک بار اس امریکی
 کے خلاف عہدہ کے ایک کارکن نے ۱۰۰ سہزار ڈالر چھاپے
 ایک ایک کارکن کو ایک کارکن کا کام دیا جس نے ایک سال
 مالدار کے ساتھ حقیقت کیلئے کرانے کے
 کے طور پر مالدار۔

۴

بیتہ - تبلیغی دُورِاے خارجہ

میں ان کا کامداد کرتے ہے کہ کسی اس طرح اس مصلحت کے تمام فوائد سمجھ سکا ہے۔ عموماً صدور فیصلہ کے لئے حوالہ دنا دیکھ کر اس طرف سے عرب کی جانے والی ضرورتاں پر تبصرہ کرنے سے انکار کیا نام رکھنے کے لئے یا کہ ضرورتاں خاص عرب ممالک میں عرب کے لئے ہے۔ حلقہ میں اس کے لئے کہ اس جنگ کے خاتمے کی خوشی دہرائی اس کی بجائے کہ عربیوں اور مسلمانوں کو کسی ایک ممبر کو کارفرما میں بھیجیں اور انہیں عربیوں کے ساتھ جو کچھ ان کی تھیں ملنے کے لئے دُورِاے خارجہ کے عالم عرب کی صورت حال پر بھی بحث کیے۔ چوتھے قرار نامہ کے تحت دُورِاے خارجہ کے لئے ایک ممبر کو کارفرما

توجہ فرمائیں

ہمارا قافلہ شہر اٹھ کر نکلتا ہے ۳۴ مہینہ دورانیہ ۱۹۵۵ء
 تیسرا سہ ماہیہ اور چوتھا سہ ماہیہ ۳۵ مہینہ کرانہ ۱۹۵۶ء
 چھ ماہیہ کرانہ ۳۶ مہینہ کرانہ ۱۹۵۷ء
 خطا اٹھانے کے بعد ۳۷ مہینہ کرانہ ۱۹۵۸ء
 حاجی محمد منیر مجید ۳۸ مہینہ کرانہ ۱۹۵۹ء
 فن ۳۹ مہینہ کرانہ ۱۹۶۰ء
 خطا اٹھانے کے بعد ۴۰ مہینہ کرانہ ۱۹۶۱ء

دعوتِ عمر و زیارات

ہر سال دعوتِ عمر و زیارات کے لئے ۱۴ تا ۱۶ نومبر کو ہوتا ہے
ہم سب کو یہ میلہ دل کے لئے خاص انتظام۔

حاجی عبداللہ بن محمد
معاون نگرانِ افاضہ، شہداء امام المدنیہ شرقیہ کراچی
یہ تنظیم کھانہ کے سامنے تشریف لائے۔
یہ کمپنی ایک کافر خدمت ہے۔

[illegible]

(۲۰-۲۱ ستمبر ۱۹۸۹ء بمبئی)

اگر آپ کے مختلف پراچے ارادے سے تازہ و قلم
فرخ کر دیے تو اس کے بارے میں پچھانے کے
بجائے سوچیں گے آپ کے قلم قدر و قیمتیں فراہم کری
تے ہیں۔

☆ ☆ ☆

ہرگز۔ آپ جو کہیں کہیں میرے پاس آئیں گے
 سے آپ کی محبت و توجہ ہو۔ میری تعریف کا کھانا ہو کر رہیں

برج و دلو
 (۲۰ جنوری تا ۱۸ فروری)

آپ کو گلی گلی کو چھانسنے کی جگہ کو کھل کر ملی
 چاہئے۔ آپ اپنے استاد کو اپنے ذہنی مرشد کے
 میں کھایا ہو۔ آپ کو اپنے ماضی کو اپنی
 چاہت کیلئے مدد کی جسے میں نہیں رکھنا چاہئے۔
 حضور در گرد و پاؤں

(۱۹ فروری تا ۱۹ مارچ)

۵ صرف یہ کہ آپ کو چلا کر میں
 پہنچا جائے کہ سب سے لیکر پھر
 تھکا جائے۔ آپ کو افسوس کہ آپ کو
 حال سے بچنے میں مدد نہ کی۔ دوسرے
 کا ذکر جاریہ مضمون۔

برج حمل

(۲۰ مارچ تا ۱۸ اپریل)

شیخ الاسلام کی ایک نئی کتاب "مذہب و تمدن" کے بارے میں ایک مضمون لکھا گیا ہے۔
 اس کتاب کا نام "مذہب و تمدن" ہے۔
 (۲۰۲۱ء - ۲۰۲۲ء)

گفتگو کیلئے ایک نیا سلسلہ شروع کیا گیا ہے۔
 اس سلسلہ کے نام "گفتگو" ہے۔
 (۲۰۲۱ء - ۲۰۲۲ء)

جنتی مسلمان کی نئی سیرت لکھی گئی ہے۔
 اس سیرت کا نام "جنتی مسلمان" ہے۔
 (۲۰۲۱ء - ۲۰۲۲ء)

سب کا انتخاب
 شیخ خورشید

جینا کو گول کی قسمت نہ یاد دی میں کی ان کا زہادہ
خیال رکھیں۔ اگر آپ علیؑ ہیں تو بستر ہی جو کا کہ
آپ اس علیؑ کو تسلیم کر لیں۔ سحر وقت کی حد تک کو
میرور نہ کریں۔ دماغ بھی کا مظاہرہ کریں۔

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ضرورت ہے
ایک صحافی نے تجویز دی کہ پاکستانی کارکنوں کو
مزدوروں کی ضرورت کے احاطہ میں لے کر

سپریم کورٹ کے جج قاضی فیاض محمد نے ۱۲/۱۱/۲۰۱۹ء کو فیصلہ سنایا کہ پاکستان کی تمام عدالتوں کے ججز کی تنخواہیں ۲۰۱۹-۲۰۲۰ کے بجٹ میں ۸ فیصد اضافے کے ساتھ ۱۲ لاکھ ۱۰ ہزار روپے فی ماہ بن جائیں گی۔

ایس کوٹ ہے، جو جی رہے کرواہ، می
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تعمیرات کے لیے

AMARNATH JUSTIFIES RECALL TO SQUAD

W. Indies beat India to take 2-0 lead

GAUHATI, India, Dec. 23, (Reuters): West Indies tamed what skipper Viv Richards called a devil in the Gauhati pitch to beat India in the second one-day international today and take a 2-0 lead in the eight-match series.

Richards led from the front with a fighting innings of 41 on a turning wicket and claimed the vital wicket of his Indian counterpart Dilip Vengsarkar to pave the way for a 52-run victory.

Gentle India were bundled out for 135 in 41.3 overs in reply to West Indies' 45-over total of 187 for seven.

"There was a devil in the wicket. The ball was keeping very low... it was a bowlers' game," Richards said.

The West Indies captain quickly established mastery over left-arm spinners Maninder Singh and Ravi Shastri after two wickets fell to the gentle medium pace of Mohinder Amarnath. He cut and drove with authority, scoring his 41 off 52 deliveries before being stumped off Shastri.

Richards' wicket was the first of three Shastri collected as Indian newspapers carried



Amarnath: put in a fine performance

reports that he might miss the third Test in Calcutta starting on December 26 because of eye trouble.

Gus Logie and Phil Simmons,

standing in for opener Gordon Greenidge who has a stomach ailment, each hit 34 to swell their side's total, while Amarnath justified his recall to the Indian team

after missing the recent World Cup with two for 21 off nine overs.

Amarnath completed a fine all-round performance with a top score of 33 but, Vengsarkar and Kapil Dev apart, he received little support from his teammates.

Vengsarkar was going well on 24 when he mis-hit a shot off Richards straight to Roger Harper at mid on. "Vengsarkar's wicket was the vital one. Once he was out, I thought we had the game," Richards said.

While Kapil Dev was at the wicket, India always had a slim chance of scoring their first one-day triumph over West Indies since the World Cup final in 1983.

But he was left stranded on 22 not out when the lower order batsmen capitulated to accurate pace bowling by Courtney Walsh and Patrick Patterson.

Walsh finished with four for 16 in 7.3 overs.

WEST INDIES
D. Haynes b Maninder 17
P. Simmons c Srikanth b Amarnath 34

R. Richards c More b Amarnath 10
V. Richards c More b Shastri 34
G. Logie lbw b Kapil Dev 3
C. Hooper c Kapil Dev b Shastri 2
R. Harper not out 18
W. Benjamin st More b Shastri 4
J. Dujon not out 13
Did not bat: C. Walsh, P. Patterson
Extras (lb-12, w-2) 14
Total (for seven wickets) 187
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-62, 3-74, 4-143, 5-145, 6-163, 7-170.
Bowling: Kapil Dev 9-1-47-1, Prabhakar 4-0-22-0, Maninder 9-3-19-1, Amarnath 9-1-21-2, Shastri 9-0-30-3, Ayub 5-0-36-0.

INDIA
K. Srikanth b Walsh 1
A. Gawkwad b Benjamin 12
M. Amarnath c Richardson b Hooper 33
D. Vengsarkar c Harper 24
M. Azharuddin c and b Hooper 3
Kapil Dev not out 22
R. Shastri b Walsh 12
K. More c Dujon b Patterson 1
M. Prabhakar lbw b Walsh 6
A. Ayub run out 6
Maninder Singh b Walsh 6
Extras (b-8, lb-8, w-4) 20
Total (41.3 overs) 135
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-25, 3-83, 4-89, 5-89, 6-117, 7-118, 8-122, 9-135.
Bowling: Patterson 8-2-20-1, Walsh 7-3-21-4, Benjamin 5-1-15-1, Harper 9-0-21-0, Richards 8-0-37-1, Hooper 4-1-10-2.

New Zealand defeat Prime Minister's XI

Rutherford stakes claim for 3rd Test

CANBERRA, Dec. 23, (Reuters): Opener Ken Rutherford boosted his claims for a recall to the New Zealand side for the third Test against Australia with a top score of 63 as the touring team cruised to a 37-run victory over the Prime Minister's XI in their 50-overs-a-side match today.

After scoring 301 in 49.5 overs, New Zealand dismissed the Prime Minister's XI for 164 in 46.2 overs.

Build

Mark Taylor and Greg Matthews gave the home side the platform on which to build a winning score with an opening stand of 59. But off-spinner John Bracewell ripped the heart out of the innings by taking four wickets and from then on the Prime Minister's XI were always struggling.

Bracewell, second, highest scorer behind Rutherford with 39, finished with four for 40 to win the Man of the Match award.

He edged out local bowler Greg Irvine, who had ripped through the touring side's lower order after lunch, taking five for 42 in 7.5 overs.

New Zealand skipper Jeff Crowe continued his run of low scores, managing only six before falling to off-spinner Greg Matthews.

Crowe, despite a meagre total of 47 runs in two Tests, intends to

play in the series decider this weekend.

Crowe's attempts to bat himself into form since mid-November have been painful to watch, his Test scores were 16, 12, 0 and 19 — but he is not about to stand down for the third and final Test starting here on Saturday.

"There's no way I won't play in the third Test. I'm going through a bad trot and I've just got to keep working at it," Crowe said.

Australia, 1-0 up in the series, have their own problems with Bruce Reid fighting against the odds to be fit for the Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Reid, far and away Australia's most versatile bowler, missed most of the drawn second Test in Adelaide with a ricked back which is still troubling him.

Reid and fellow paceman Merv Hughes, who is suffering from a pulled hamstring, face final fitness tests tomorrow.

Philip Horne will probably edge out Rutherford to claim the troubled opening spot alongside John Wright after hitting a century in the drawn game against Tasmania last weekend.

Fast-medium bowler Ewen Chatfield, surprisingly dropped for the second Test, is likely to return to the fold for a game in which his nagging accuracy

could help to control the in-form David Boon and Allan Border.

But New Zealand's greatest chance of victory and squaring the series seems to lie in taking advantage of the probable absence of Reid.

The touring side amassed 485 for nine declared once Reid left the field injured in Adelaide, with Andrew Jones and in particular Martin Crowe treating the depleted Australian attack with something nearing contempt.

The lanky Western Australian bowler looked anything but fit when he worked out on Monday and, like Hughes, he will have to rely on a wish to Father Christmas in order to be fit by Boxing Day.

Mike Whitney, currently on standby, will probably be picked for his first Test in six years if Reid is deemed unfit.

Teams:

Australia (from) — Allan Border (captain), David Boon, Geoff Marsh, Dean Jones, Mike Veletta, Steve Waugh, Greg Dyer, Peter Sleep, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Bruce Reid, Mike Whitney, Merv Hughes.

New Zealand — to be announced.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND
P. Horne b Dodemaide 14

K. Rutherford b Irvine 63
M. Crowe run out 10
D. Boon c Taylor b Matthews 6
D. Patel c M. Waugh b Irvine 27
J. Bracewell b Capes 39
R. Hadlee c Border b Irvine 2
I. Smith c Capes b Irvine 5
M. Sedden c Hookes b Irvine 14
W. Watson b Capes 0
E. Chatfield not out 1
Extras (lb-4, w-11, ab-3) 20
Total 201 — 49.5 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-49, 3-61, 4-127, 5-153, 6-158, 7-178, 8-197, 9-197.
Bowling: Hickey 9-0-45-0 (5w, 1nb), Capes 6-3-19-2 (1w), Dodemaide 10-2-33-1, Matthews 10-0-30-1, Waugh 5-0-26-0 (4w, 2nb), Irvine 7-5-0-42-5 (1w).

PRIME MINISTER'S XI
M. Taylor c J. Crowe b Bracewell 32
G. Matthews c Chatfield 5
D. Bracewell 34
T. Moody st Smith b Bracewell 9
M. Waugh c Sedden b Watson 35
D. Hookes c Patel b Bracewell 0
G. Irvine c Bracewell b Watson 14
A. Border run out 12
R. Sedden lbw b Hadlee 6
P. Capes not out 0
D. Hickey b Hadlee 3
Extras (lb-1, w-8, ab-1) 14
Total (46.2 overs) 164

Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-81, 3-85, 4-90, 5-136, 6-142, 7-144, 8-155, 9-160.
Bowling: Hadlee 8-2-31-2 (1nb), Chatfield 10-2-20-0 (1w), Sedden 7-1-29-0, Bracewell 10-1-40-4, Rutherford 4-0-22-0 (4w), Watson 7-1-22-2.

Orange Bowl
MIAMI BEACH, Florida, Dec. 23, (AP): Top-seeded Nicklas Kulti of Sweden lost yesterday to Argentina's Martin Stringari in third-round boys 16 play at the Orange Bowl international tennis championships.

Stringari, the 12th seed, rallied for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory that left sixth-seeded Paul Dogger of the Netherlands as the highest-seeded player still alive. Twelve of the top 16 seeds have been eliminated.

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Gatting unrepentant over row

LONDON, Dec. 23, (Reuters): England cricket captain Mike Gatting was unrepentant yesterday over his finger-wagging confrontation with umpire Shakoor Rana during the Faisalabad Test but admitted he was "perhaps unwise to become involved."

"I have never been sworn at like that on the cricket field before, and certainly never called a cheat," Gatting told reporters when he arrived back in London.

"Perhaps I was unwise to become involved with the umpire, but at the time I had my say and told him to get back to square leg and carry on doing his job."

Exchange

"This whole business has given me a few more grey hairs and I have not had a lot of sleep lately."

Gatting and Shakoor accused each other of swearing at each other in a heated exchange over field placings during the second Test. More than a day's play was lost before the issue was resolved when Gatting was instructed by the English Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) to give a written apology to Shakoor.

England tour manager Peter Lush said that the Faisalabad situation was a "unique thing to happen in a Test," but was adamant that the touring team were not to blame.

"We hoped things could be settled with a handshake, but



Gatting, surrounded by police, wheels his luggage through the arrivals gate at Heathrow airport. (Reuters photograph)

the England cricketers because of the problems encountered on the Pakistan tour.

"It was not a question of us demanding the money," he said. "It came to us completely out of the blue. We knew nothing about it."

Meanwhile in the recently concluded series, Aamir Malik of Pakistan and John Embury of England topped the batting averages while Abdul Qadir and Neil Foster came out on top in the bowling averages.

Gatting confessed to being surprised by the £1,000 (\$1,800) bonus being paid by the TCCB to

the England cricketers because of the problems encountered on the Pakistan tour.

"It was not a question of us demanding the money," he said. "It came to us completely out of the blue. We knew nothing about it."

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Falcon crush Hubara

FALCON Cricket Club scored an easy 103-run victory over Hubara Cricketers in a Brud Trophy match earlier this week at the EPI ground.

After winning the toss, Falcon opened their innings through Iqbal and Ayub. Both openers, particularly Iqbal, were very severe on the bowlers and put on 257 for the first wicket.

Iqbal hammered 22 fours and a six while scoring a century before he was caught by Dennis off Peter Ayub, who had been doing quite well, lost his concentration for a while and was bowled by Peter for 89. He hit two sixes and seven fours.

Patel then accounted for Rauf (28) and Sajjad while Anjum (17) was bowled by Dennis. Amin remained unbeaten on 34 as Falcon piled up 353 for the loss of five wickets by the end of the 45th over.

Hubara, requiring nearly eight

Quaid-e-Millat qualify for semifinals

QUAID-E-MILLAT Cricket Club qualified for the semifinals of Punjab Cricket Trophy with a six-wicket victory over Blue Star Cricket Club at the Airport ground earlier this week.

Batting first, Blue Star scored 160 in their 30 overs and lost nine wickets. James Lobo with 39, Remy 26, Edwin 23 and Jerry 15 were the main contributors.

For QMCC, Sadaqat took two wickets for 30 while Munir, Saleem, Ilyas and Dilawer got one each.

Requiring over five runs per over for victory, QMCC were given a fright by Saleem as they lost their first four wickets for only 43 runs. But Suhail and Qamar took advantage of some poor fielding and missed chances to put on 119 for the fifth wicket and also take their team to victory.

Suhail remained unbeaten on 63 which he compiled with the help of four sixes and three fours. Qamar's unbeaten 51 contained five fours. Saleem took three for 31 while Ronney captured the other wicket to fall.

After the departure of Lamb and Talbott, none of the other batsmen, except for Rodney who scored 46, could put up much of a fight and Hubara were all out for 250.

Iqbal, after his brilliant innings, excelled with the ball taking three wickets. Anjum also got three scalps while Amin, Rauf and Ayub shared the other three.

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SPORTS

Sabatini gets top Argentine award



Sabatini honoured
BUENOS AIRES, Dec 23, (Reuters): Teenage tennis star Gabriela Sabatini was declared Argentina's Sports Personality of the Year in a ceremony in Buenos Aires on Monday night.

The 17-year-old Sabatini, ranked sixth in the world, was awarded the Olimpia de Oro gold trophy.

Last month, Sabatini scored her second upset victory of the year over Martina Navratilova before falling to world number one Steffi Graf of West Germany in the final of the season-ending championship in New York. She then successfully defended her title in the Argentine Open.

The award, decided by a vote of the Buenos Aires Sports Journalists' Association, went last year to soccer superstar Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the World Cup final over West Germany in Mexico.

Judge issues arrest warrant for Yvinec

BOGOTA, Dec 23, (Reuters): A Colombian magistrate issued an arrest warrant yesterday against the president of French First Division soccer club Brest who sneaked out of the country last week. Colombia's press agency Colpresna said.

Investigating magistrate Elizabeth Amaya, from Cali, issued the warrant after Brest president Francois Yvinec jumped bail and fled Colombia aboard a small plane after seven weeks of investigation about alleged fraud in a transfer contract.

Yvinec arrived in France last Saturday, together with player Roberto Cabanas from the Club Atletico de Cali, and denounced to journalists what he called a "parody of justice" in Colombia.

The arrest warrant means that Yvinec is subject to immediate arrest if he sets foot on Colombian soil.

KUWAIT'S AL BLOUSHI TIPPED TO WIN GOLD

Nine S. Koreans reach boxing finals

SOUTH KOREANS maintained their dominance at the 13th Asian Boxing Championship when nine of them moved into the finals on Tuesday evening at Kuwait's Handball Federation Hall.

Such has been South Korea's superiority at this event that the next country with the most number of boxers in the finals is Iraq with four.

Mongolia has three fighters in the finals, Pakistan and Thailand two each and one boxer each from Indonesia, Kuwait, Syria and India. No boxer reached the finals from Japan, China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Oman and South Yemen.

Class

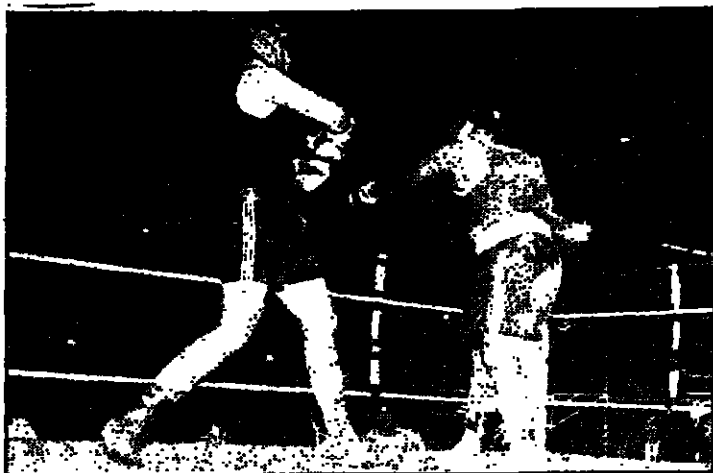
The only Kuwaiti who reached the finals was Ali Al Bloushi in the super-heavyweight category. Al Bloushi scored an unanimous points victory over Iraqi Nasser Khaled.

Al Bloushi won the admiration of the crowd, including Olympic Council of Asia President Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, with the skill that he displayed.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Yusef Al Amer took the bronze medal in the light-middleweight class even after losing to Iraqi Jaber Amer.

On Tuesday evening a total of 20 bouts were held. 14 of the fights were decided on points, five on technical knockouts and one on a knockout.

The most interesting fight, however, was between Al Bloushi and Nasser. Al Bloushi star-



Ali Bloushi (right) takes his opponent to task.

ted by absorbing the punches of his Iraqi opponent in the first round. The fight from the second round was Al Bloushi's as he landed his punches at will despite being at a disadvantage in height.

He made up for the difference by packing a lot of power behind the blows that he landed.

Most of the other bouts were close affairs. In the flyweight category, Torsak Yonger of Thailand beat Mohammed Latif of Pakistan on points and Kim Kwang of South Korea outpointed Amir Jawad of Iraq.

Young Mother of South Korea overcame Rana Singh of India in the bantamweight class while Abbas Khalaf of Iraq forced Laksmi of Sri Lanka to retire.

Featherweight Park Seb of South Korea beat Ilham of

Indonesia on points while Jarjal of Mongolia won a similar decision against John Williams of India.

In the lightweight division, Adriano of Indonesia overcame Dinesh Bhat of India while Baya Khan of Mongolia knocked out Abdul Khaliq of Pakistan in the second round.

Kim Li Tik of South Korea had no difficulty in defeating Sri Karam of India in the light-welterweight category. In the same weight Nishat of Mongolia beat Mohammed Rustom of Pakistan on points.

In a welterweight bout, Ravi Chand of India moved into the finals with a win over Sonan Ram of Thailand and Kwang Sung of South Korea beat Khalid Rahim of Iraq on points. Hussain Shah was the first



Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Al Ali, Sheikh Fahd and the President of the International Boxing Federation, Anwar Choudhry, watch the fights.

Pakistani to move into the finals with a win against Singh of India in the middleweight division. In the same class Hussain Kurdiya of Syria beat Hussain of Iraq.

Ming Yong clinched a spot in the light-heavyweight category by stopping Kausar Abbas of Pakistan while Ahmad Sabri outpointed Islam Fur Fayez of Pakistan in the heavyweight division. The second heavyweight finalist was Pit Man of South Korea who scored a technical knockout over Mukhtar Singh of India.

Dildar Ahmed of Pakistan lined himself up as Al Bloushi's opponent when he outpointed Jaipal Singh of India.

Al Bloushi has been tipped to beat Dildar in the final and clinch the gold for Kuwait. Al Bloushi has won a number of Asian

championships before and the task ahead is not considered difficult for him. Dildar had to work hard on Tuesday to defeat his opponent.

South Koreans are favoured to win all the nine golds in the weights they have qualified for. Officials at the championship, however, were of the opinion that the four Iraqis in the finals would not be easy to defeat as they are expected to put up a tough fight.

The finals start this evening at 3.00 pm and will be patronised by Sheikh Jaber Al Ali who has deputised Sheikh Fahd to represent him. The finals will be followed by a speech by the president of the Kuwait Boxing Federation and head of the organising committee, Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Al Ali.

Nehemiah feels he's still in the race

LOS ANGELES, Dec 23, (AP): Renaldo "Skeets" Nehemiah says he may not have another world record left in him, but after a lacklustre professional football career he feels he can reclaim his place as the best hurdler in the world.

"I guess with the old theory, 'you're only as good as your last race,' I want to erase that image in everyone's mind that Renaldo Nehemiah is washed up," said the man who has held the world record in the 110-metre hurdles since 1979. He set the record of 13.00 seconds in 1979 and lowered it to the current 12.93 in 1981.

Recovered

Nehemiah, who will compete in the 55-metre hurdles in the Sunbelt Invitational Indoor Meet on Jan 22, said that he has recovered from an Achilles tendon injury that has slowed his

track comeback and is preparing for the Seoul Olympics.

"I'm 100 per cent healthy, stronger than I've ever been in my legs and I'm optimistically approaching the 1988 season — of course with it being a pivotal year because it's the 1988 Olympics," he said.

Nehemiah, 28, missed the 1980 Olympics because of the American-led boycott. That was part of the reason why he decided to try professional football. As a member of the San Francisco 49ers he won a Super Bowl ring, but he missed the amateur eligibility he needed to participate in the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Since regaining his amateur status, Nehemiah's track comeback has consisted of winning a 110-metre hurdles race last year in Italy in a pedestrian 13.48 seconds, and winning one race

indoors.

Surgery on his left Achilles tendon, an injury stemming largely from football's stresses and strains, ended his 1987 indoor season after three meets. He spent the summer competing in European meets and finding out that he hadn't fully recovered.

Nehemiah says he plans to run extensively during the indoor season, cut back somewhat during the outdoor season, "re-ingrain myself with fundamentals, then look forward to qualifying for the Olympics."

"I think the only unknown is my health," he said. "I guess that would be a question in anyone's mind. If I can stay healthy there's not much doubt that I'll be on the Olympic team."

"But the last two years I've been troubled with injuries. So during the indoor season I'll feel my way through, race by race. If

I'm competitive indoors, that will definitely ease any concerns of physical injury and rehabilitation."

Nehemiah expects his rivalry with Greg Foster will heat up. In last year's Sunbelt, Foster beat Nehemiah in the 60-metre hurdles and broke the world indoor mark but was booed when he brushed aside Nehemiah's congratulations.

Considering

Nehemiah said he may need a tune-up for the Sunbelt, and is considering running in Canada's Hamilton Games on Jan 15.

During his four years with the 49ers, Nehemiah's record remained untouched. The closest anyone came was Foster at 13.03.

"I do know one day it may be broken, but I'm flattered that it's been there that long," Nehemiah said.

New Austrian manager named

VIENNA, Dec 23, (Reuters): Josef Hickersberger, 39, was appointed Austria's youngest national soccer manager today.

His appointment was announced by Beppo Mauch, president of the Austrian Football Federation. Former Austrian international goalkeeper Friedl Koncilia will be Hickersberger's assistant.

Yugoslav Branko Elsner who quit last month after three years in charge.

Pura stuns Meagher at US Open

ORLANDO, Fla., Dec 23, (Reuters): Romania's Stela Pura swam the race of her life to upset world record holder Mary Meagher yesterday in the 200-metre butterfly at the US Open Long Course Swimming Championships.

Pura, 16, overcame jet lag to win in two minutes 10.64 seconds. Meagher, 23, was well off her record pace of 2:05.96 set in 1981 and touched the wall in 2:10.83 for second place.

Meagher's fellow American Julie Gorman was third in 2:12.52.

"Even now to this moment I don't believe I beat her in a major championship," said Pura with the help of an interpreter. "I was a little nervous to swim against her. I also haven't gotten used to the time difference, which bothered me a little."

Meagher, who hopes to become only the third American woman to make three Olympic teams, said she would immediately resume full training for the Seoul Games.

Surprise

While Pura pulled off the surprise of the day, it was no surprise that 16-year-old American star Janet Evans was named top performer of the three-day meet.

Evans, who set a world record of 4:05.45 in the women's 400-metre freestyle on Sunday, won her third race in as many days yesterday taking top honours in the 800-metre freestyle.

Evans led a US sweep with a time of 8:24.71. Tami Bruce was second in 8:34.32 and Andrea Hayes was third in 8:39.72.

Huang Xiaomin of China, silver medalist in the women's 200-metre breaststroke at the Pan Pacific Championships in Brisbane, Australia in August, won the event yesterday with a time of 2:30.62.

US swimmers won all four men's races yesterday.

New Cup format in the offing

LONDON, Dec 23, (AP): A new format for the Davis Cup is being drawn up by leading tennis officials, who are worried that the sport's oldest and most prestigious team event may be losing its excitement and credibility.

The proposals, details of which are being kept secret, are to be discussed during next month's Australian Open in Melbourne.

"At present, we are not in any position to talk about what changes might be proposed but

obviously it's a major step any time you change a competition of this calibre," said Mike Davies, marketing director of the International Tennis Federation.

In a telephone interview from his office in Arlington, Texas, Davies said proposals to alter the structure of the Davis Cup had not been directly effected by last weekend's 5-0 rout of India by the star-studded Swedish team in the 1987 final of the competition.

The result was the first whit-

ewash in the final for eight years.

"We have been discussing things for a couple of months," Davies said. "It does not have anything specifically to do with the Sweden-India match, but there are certain problems."

Because of the zonal structure of the Davis Cup, some leading tennis nations frequently find themselves having to qualify for the world group, the premier league of 16 nations, while other, weaker teams are in the top bracket.

visits Wimbledon and Portsmouth. Forest hosts Coventry and Newcastle.

Arsenal ends its holiday programme with a home game against London rival Queens Park Rangers, while Forest visits champion Everton in another crunch game.

Fourth-placed Manchester United, whose three successive victories have re-established it as a title outsider, begins the holiday campaign with a visit to Newcastle, then hosts Everton and struggling Charlton Athletic and winds up with a visit to Watford.

Last season, Everton won all four Christmas and New Year matches and will be hoping for a repeat of that sequence to push it further towards cross-town rival, Liverpool.

With matches against United and Forest to negotiate in its four-game programme, the champions could have an important say in the destiny of the title.

The top game on Saturday clearly is Arsenal's home meeting with Forest, scorer of six goals in its last two games without reply.

Other First Division games include Charlton versus Queens Park Rangers, Derby County against new bottom club, Norwich City, Southampton against Tottenham Hotspur, Watford against Sheffield Wednesday and West Ham United versus Wimbledon.

Forest is ten points behind Liverpool, but has a game in hand and has to play the leader twice.

"We have set ourselves up for the push. We couldn't be more confident," Clough said. "I would not dream of picking a winner. I just want our rivals to know we are hanging in there."

Over Christmas and New Year, Liverpool visits mid-table Oxford United and Derby County and hosts lowly Newcastle and mid-table Coventry City. Arsenal and Nottingham Forest clash next Saturday and while the north London side then

painful experience his team suffered in similar circumstances last season.

The "Gunners" led second-placed Nottingham Forest by five points on Christmas Day, but lost the title to eventual champion Everton, who were in fourth place at the start of the holiday programme.

But Liverpool are different to any other team, with a consistency unparalleled throughout the League and tremendous depth in star players. For Dalglish's side not to win the League would be one of the biggest turn-arounds in English soccer history.

One significant dissenting voice has emerged, however. Brian Clough, the vitriolic manager of third-placed Nottingham Forest, reckons the race is far from over.

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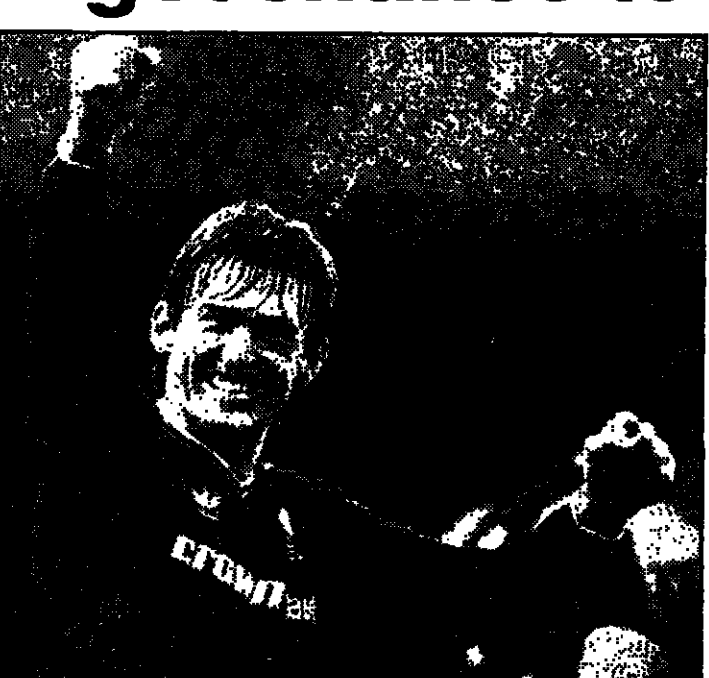
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years, they have to go down as the best side in the world," Wilkinson said. "Playing against them provides a measure for a manager and his players."

Wilkinson's team put up virtually a ten-man defensive barricade at Anfield and still went down 1-0 as Liverpool equalled its best ever start to the season — 19 games unbeaten.

Arsenal manager George Graham can take heart from the



Dalglish: his squad has history on its side

"If we're not careful, it could be all over by the first week of the new year. The challengers could be reduced to one or two and we must make sure we are still there," Steven said.

Howard Wilkinson, manager of the Sheffield Wednesday team beaten by Liverpool last Saturday, described the Merseysiders as the best club side in the world.

"When you look at Liverpool's record over the last 20

Liverpool get chance to open gap at top

LONDON, Dec 23, (AP): The English Soccer League campaign reaches the halfway stage of its 40-game marathon over the Christmas and New Year holiday, with Liverpool a clear leader and a hot favourite to win its nine title in 13 seasons.

The Merseyside giant goes into the busy holiday programme seven points clear of its rivals with many of the chasers conceding that Kenny Dalglish's team virtually can wrap up the title by the first week of 1988.

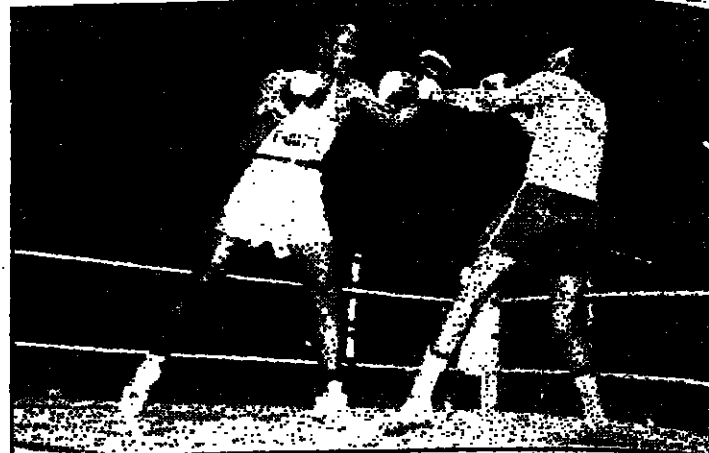
Liverpool certainly has history on its side as it enters the traditionally hectic holiday programme when most of the League's 92 clubs in Four Divisions cram in four matches over eight days.

Comparatively

During the past 14 seasons, 10 of the teams who led the First Division at Christmas went on to win the title.

With four comparatively easy games to come between Dec 26 and Jan 2, Liverpool has the chance to carve out an even bigger advantage over leading rivals Arsenal, Nottingham Forest, Manchester United and defending champion Everton.

Although Everton has not yet conceded its title, its England international midfielder, Trevor Steven, said that if the holiday results go in Liverpool's favour, only one or possibly two teams could still be in the hunt after the Christmas break.



Pakistan's Dildar (left) takes control of his fight against his Indian opponent.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tunisia edge past Kuwait

THE Kuwait national soccer team was defeated 1-0 by Tunisia in a friendly soccer match at the Al Arabi stadium yesterday. Kuwait is playing a number of friendlies in preparation for the next round of qualifiers for the 1988 Olympics.

Evergreen to meet Starlite

EVERGREEN meet Starlite and Kifco play Bright Star in the semifinals of the Al Athla Trophy cricket tournament at the KCL ground tomorrow. The first match starts at 9.00 am and the second at 1.00 pm.

Milan-Roma match result overturned

MILAN, Italy, Dec 23, (Reuters): Italian soccer authorities overturned the result of a Milan-Roma match and awarded a 2-0 victory to Roma today because of hooliganism which almost cost the life of a Roma goalkeeper Franco Tancredi.

Dalmas signs for Larrousse

PARIS, Dec 23, (Reuters): Yannick Dalmas, French Formula Three and Formula Renault champion, has signed a three-year contract with Larrousse-Camels, the French Formula One motor racing team announced today.

Rosi to put title at stake

GENOA, Italy, Dec 23, (Reuters): Gianfranco Rosi of Italy will make a voluntary defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-welterweight title here against Duane Thomas of the United States on January 4, organisers announced today.

Results of British soccer matches

LONDON, Dec 22, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played yesterday: Anglo-Scottish Challenge trophy first leg: Coventry 1 St Mirren 1; Scottish Premier League: Falkirk 0 Celtic 2 (postponed from Dec 16).

Athletes warned over use of drugs

LONDON, Dec 23, (AP): Britain's top sports authorities called today for the "strongest possible action" to stop athletes from using anabolic steroids intended for animals. The move by the sports council followed reports that increasing numbers of athletes were using animal drugs because they work quicker than human steroids.

Zurbriggen and Oerli triumph

BORMIO, Italy, Dec 23, (AP): Pirmin Zurbriggen and Brigitte Oerli tied 1-2-3 sweeps by Swiss skiers yesterday in men's and women's World Cup parallel slaloms. Zurbriggen, the defending World Cup overall champion, won the men's event by defeating teammate Joel Gaspoz in the two-heat head-to-head final. Another Swiss, Martin Hangl, beat Austrian Roland Pfeifer for third place.

Canada capture crown

MOSCOW, Dec 23, (AP): Canada's Olympic ice hockey team broke open a close game with two goals in a little more than a minute of the second period yesterday to defeat Finland 4-1 and win the IZVESTIA hockey tournament.

In other action on the final day of the six-team tournament, the Soviet Union defeated Sweden 4-1 and West Germany upset Czechoslovakia 4-3.

Followed

Canada finished the tournament with a 4-1 record, including a 3-2 defeat of the favoured Soviet team on Saturday.

Forward Claude Vilgrain scored on a power play at 10:41 of the second period to give Canada a 3-1 lead, and was followed 1:03 later by defenceman Chris Felix's slapshot from just inside

the blue line. The Canadians opened the scoring just 1:01 into the game when Gord Shervien scored. But Finland tied the score at 4:22 of the first period on a goal by Ekkil Laine.

Canada took the lead for good 55 seconds later on a goal by Bob Joyce.

The Soviets broke open a 1-1 tie with three goals in the final period to defeat Sweden, and West Germany came from a 2-1 deficit in the final period to upend the Czechoslovak team.

Canada's victory was its first in the prestigious IZVESTIA tournament. The Soviets have won 16 times and the Czechoslovak team won four times.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Messiah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Saturday:
1. Nabil Akel & Lollo Mardhwaite
2. Jamila Akel & Lolly Akel-Jamali
3. Nida Khalaf & Juliette Chiles
and Eddy Lammerts & Sonia Bannan
Results of the Sheraton Ladies Bridge Club game:
1. Nabil Akel & Lollo Mardhwaite
2. Jamila Akel & Juliette Mushawar
3. Fatima Abuljohain & Irene

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Ahmed 3983114
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